



**Institute of Fundamental Technological Research  
Polish Academy of Sciences**

# **Advances in materials science of concrete at IPPT PAN – short review**

Michal A. Glinicki

# Outline

1. About IPPT PAN
2. Selected research topics in materials characterization and modelling
3. Research on „Materials science of concrete + applications”
4. Radiation shielding concrete

# Activity area of IPPT PAN

## Institute of Fundamental Technological Research

*founded in 1953 as a part of the Polish Academy of Sciences*

- ❑ The main task : to conduct **engineering research** in the selected areas which are the focus of the world's science and technology.
- ❑ The principal research fields:  
theoretical and applied mechanics, mechanics of structures, materials science, fluid mechanics, applied informatics, acoustoelectronics, ultrasonic medical diagnostics and biomechanics.
- ❑ Funding of research:  
government funding; EU and other research projects; industry

# Organizational structure of IPPT PAN

Research staff: about 120 researchers (incl. 15 full professors, 26 associate professors and 46 senior researchers with the Ph.D.)

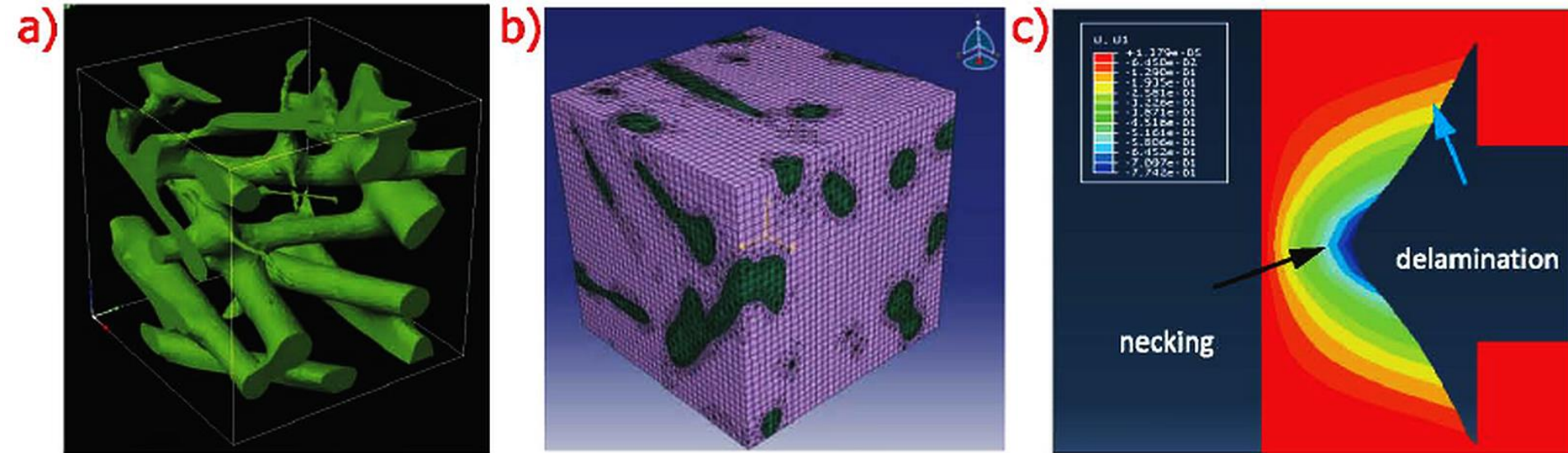
## Seven Departments:

- Experimental Mechanics
- Mechanics of Materials
- Intelligent Technologies
- Ultrasound
- Theory of Continuous Media
- Information and Computational Science
- Biosystems and Soft Matter



## Postgraduate PhD studies

# Modelling of advanced composite materials



- a) Micro-CT image of interpenetrating phase composite created with SimplewareScanIP/FE software
- b) ABAQUS finite element model mesh
- c) modelling of crack bridging by metal ligament in metal-ceramic interpenetrating phase composites: radial displacement distribution

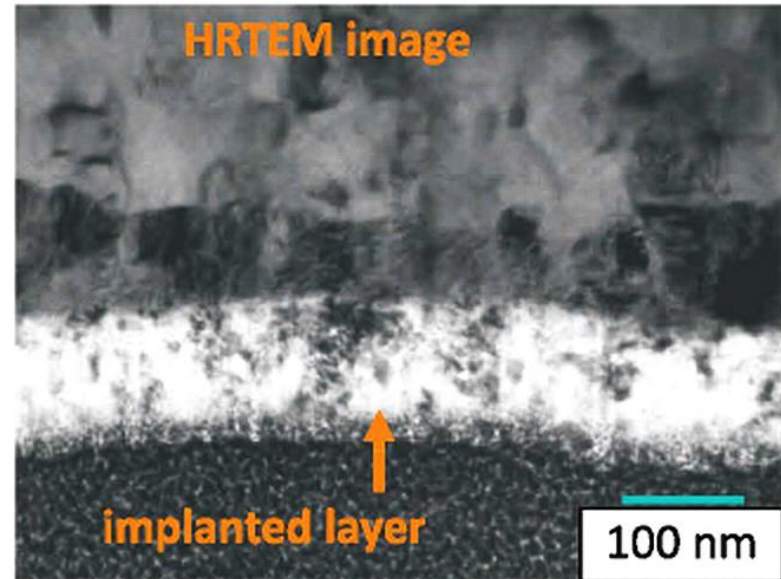
# Thin surface layers by ion implantation

The implanted gradient layers are constituted of shape memory alloys, high speed steels or Ti- alloys. Microstructure, implanted ions distribution and mechanical properties of modified layers are investigated. The goal is an optimal selection of process parameters for different materials.

a)

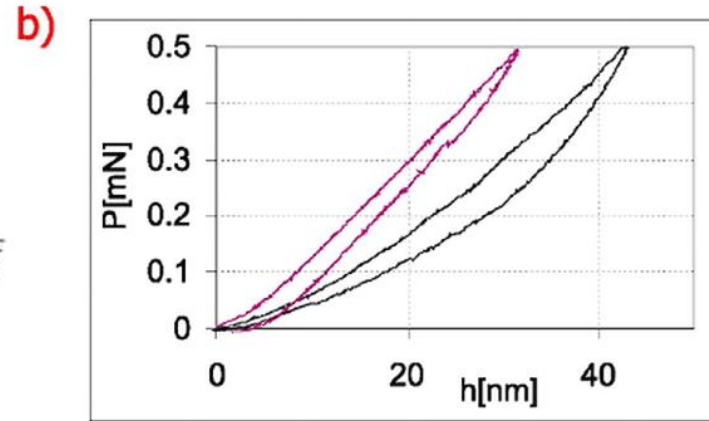
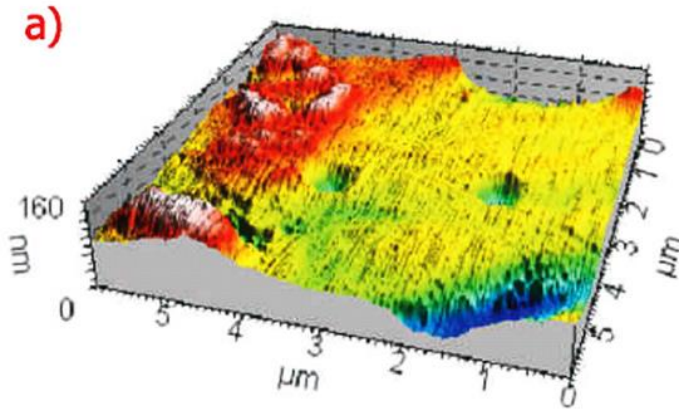


b)



a) Ion implanter, b) morfology of implanted layer.

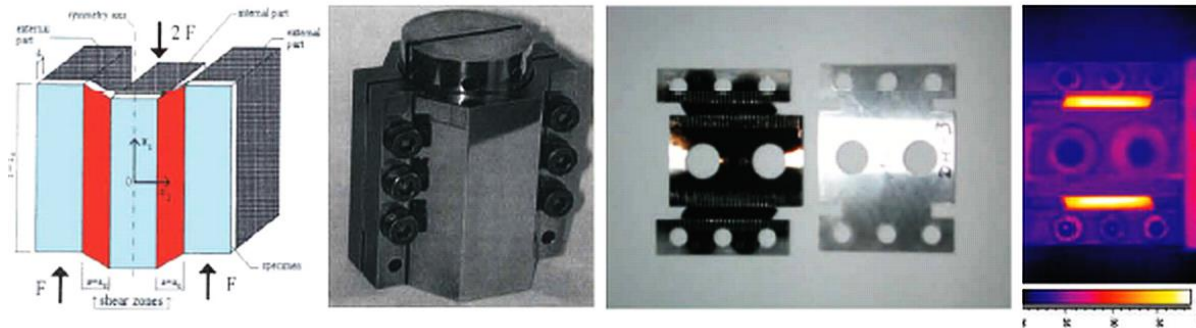
# Identification of material properties using nanoindentation



a) Effect of nanoindentation tests in the metal phase of sintered metal-ceramics composite ( $\text{Mo}+40\%\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ).

b) Nanoindentation curves for ion implanted (red) and non-implanted (black) shape-memory NiTi alloy.

# Tests of inelastic materials in a wide range of strain rates

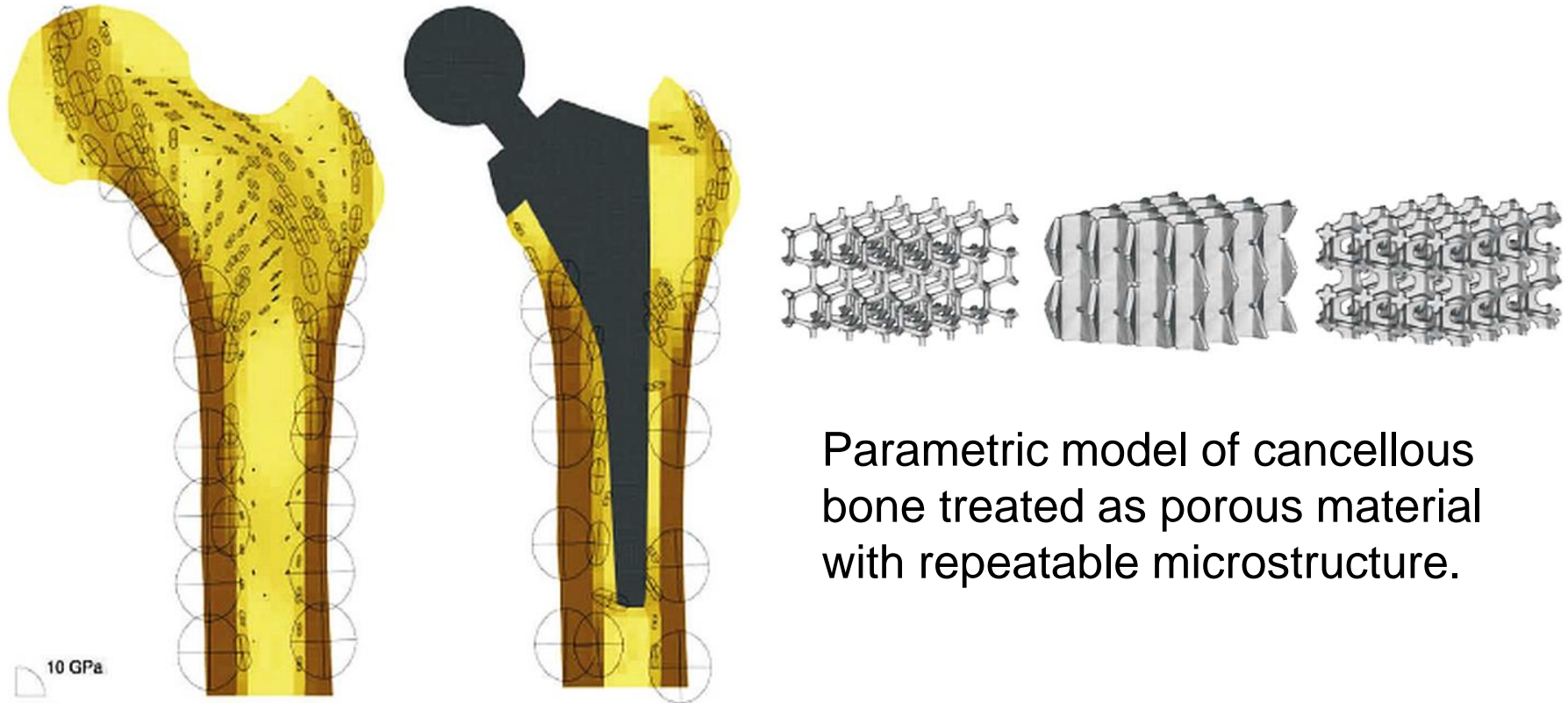


Upper: Set-up for shear compression tests and examples of investigated shear compression specimens.

Lower: Double shear testing set implemented for dynamic tests of metal sheets with use of IR thermography.



# Numerical models for simulations of biomechanical phenomena



Parametric model of cancellous bone treated as porous material with repeatable microstructure.

Distribution of bone density and elastic anisotropy as a result of simulation of adaptive tissue remodelling in femur (without and with endoprosthesis).

# Research on materials science of concrete

Division of Materials Science in Construction Engineering

Head: M.A. Glinicki

Staff: 7 permanent + temporary up to 20 for larger projects

- Development of multi-component materials for sustainable construction
- Experimental evaluation of microstructure, micromechanical properties and durability of cement - based composites
- Design of high performance materials exposed to combined action of environmental loads, mechanical loads and nuclear radiation
- Optimization of dispersed fibre reinforcement and fibre-matrix contact properties

# Related research topics at IPPT PAN

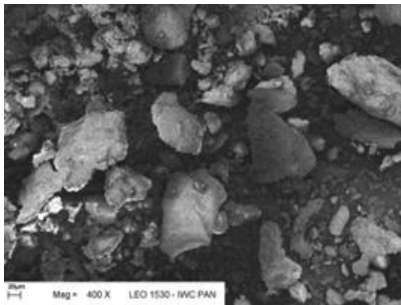
- ❑ Characterization of new SCMs from 'clean coal' energy production; development of new cements
- ❑ Quantitative characterization of microstructure (voids, cracks, delaminations, gradient properties)
- ❑ Transport properties and durability of concrete in aggressive environment and radiation exposure
- ❑ Micromechanical approach to long-term toughness of fiber reinforced concrete
- ❑ Identification of thermal/rheological properties of hardening concrete
- ❑ Soft computing methods (machine learning) for discovery of composition-properties relations

# Highly active coal ash from clean combustion

## Non-standard coal ash in Poland – up to 10 mln ton/year

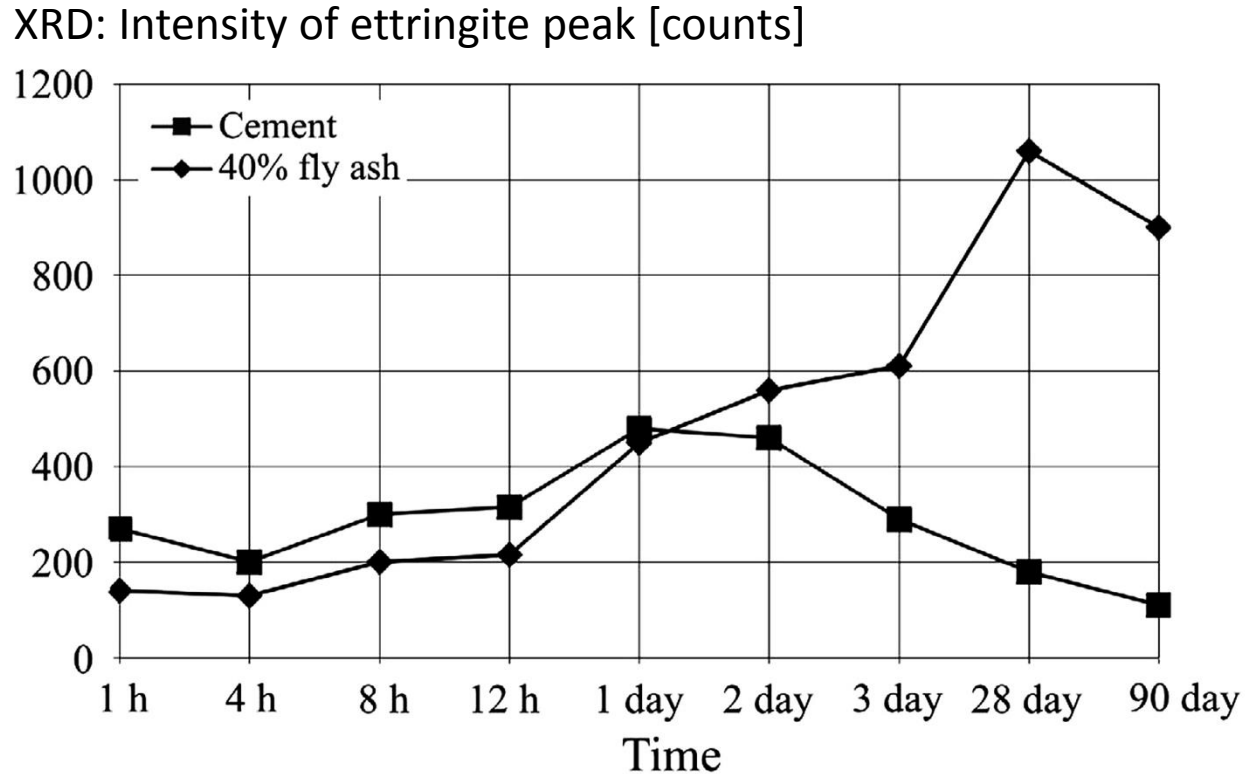
### Circulating Fluidized-bed Combustion Technology (CFBC)

- fuel flexibility (low-grade coal, biomass, sludge, waste plastics, and waste tires as fuel)
- SO<sub>x</sub> emissions significantly decreased -desulfurization intrafurnace, using mainly limestone
- low combustion temperature 850 to 900°C, thereby suppressing thermal NO<sub>x</sub> emissions



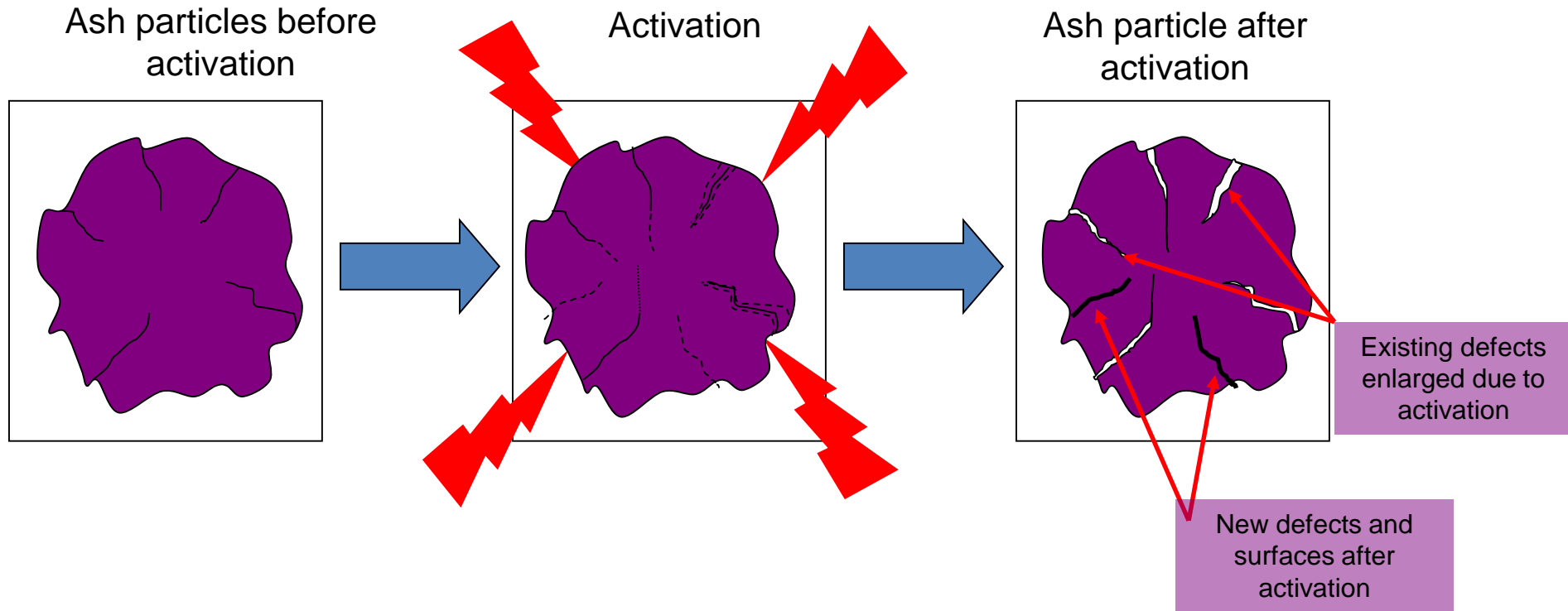
CFBC fly ash = residuum from burning and desulphurization process in CFBC boilers.

# Phase composition of cement paste with CFBC fly ash



Significantly increased content of crystalline ettringite at later ages  
Reason: increased content of anhydrite in CFBC fly ash

# CFBC fly ash beneficiation: mechanical activation of particles by impacts

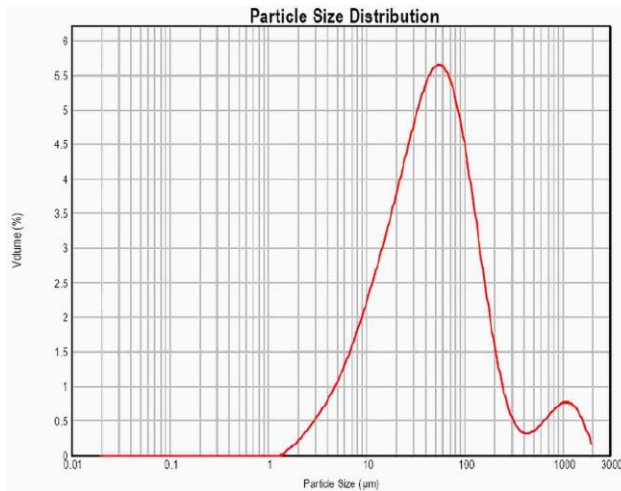


Strength efficiency of activated CFBC fly ash: greater than 1.0  
i.e. greater than Portland cement

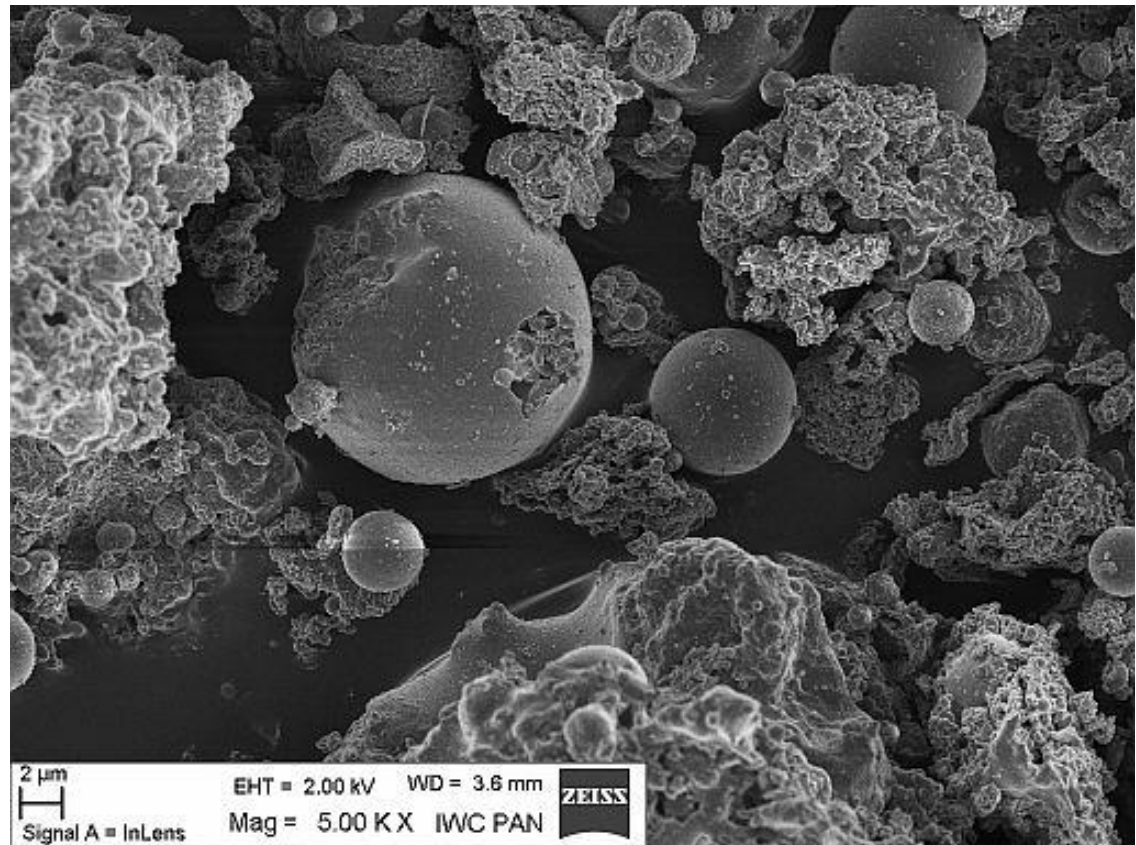
# Characterization of high calcium fly ash (HFCA)

Particles:

spherical 1-50  $\mu\text{m}$ ; irregular and aggregates 20-100  $\mu\text{m}$   
solid and plerospheres



also:  
XRD, DTA/TG/DTG,  
SEM-EDS, chemical



# Development of new blended cements

Types and principal properties of blended cements  
(reduced clinker content and properties for high range applications)

Cement type	Additives content, %	Specific density, g/cm <sup>3</sup>	Specific surface Blaine, cm <sup>2</sup> /g	Water demand, %	Soundness Le Chatelier, mm	Compressive strength, MPa	
						2 days	28 days
CEM I (Portland)	0	3.10	3830	26.5	0	27.5	56.3
CEM II/A-W	15	3.05	3840	29.0	0	24.1	52.5
CEM II/B-W	30	2.98	3760	31.6	0	16.4	46.8
CEM II/B-M (V-W)	15+15	2.93	3750	30.4	0	18.7	44.9
CEM II/B-M (S-W)	15+15	3.03	3720	29.0	0	19.4	54.8
“CEM V/A (S-W)”	25+25	2.97	3810	29.8	0	11.7	40.3

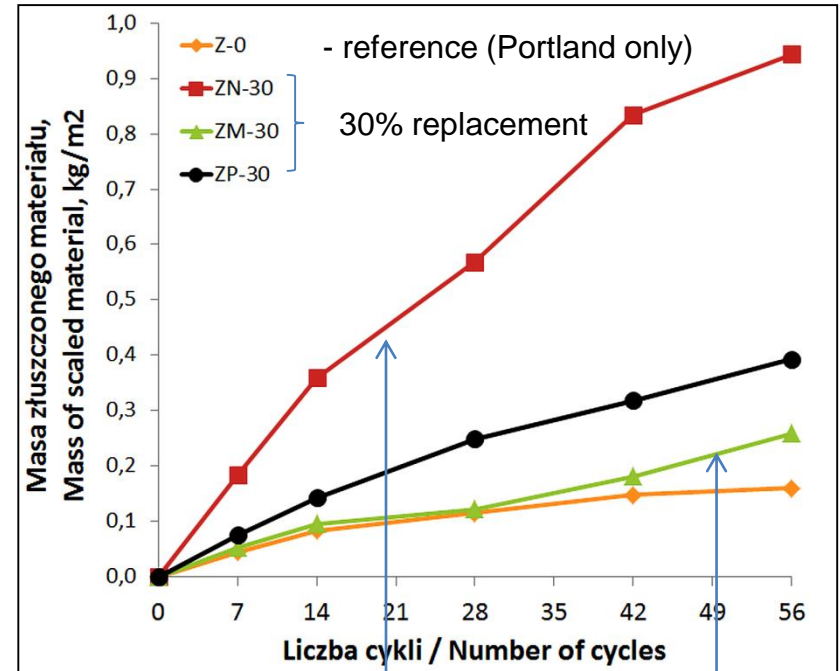
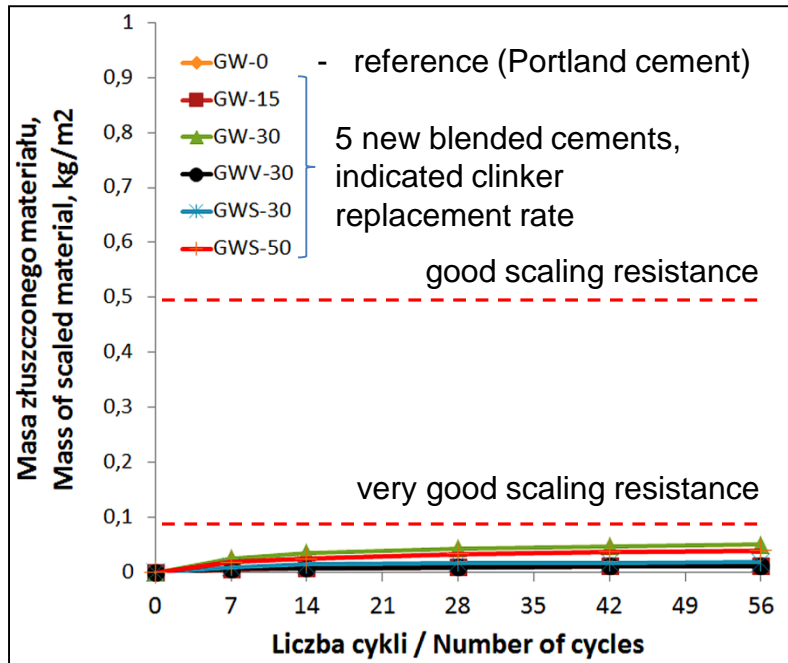
W – high calcium fly ash (lignite)

V – siliceous fly ash (hard coal)

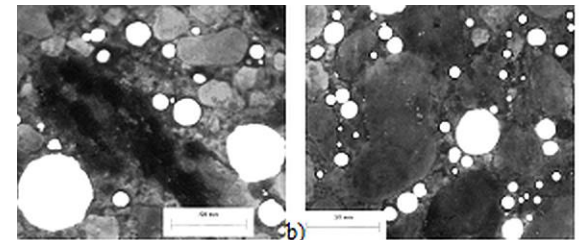
S – ground granulated blastfurnace slag



# Frost -deicer scaling resistance of concrete: blended cements and processed HCFA

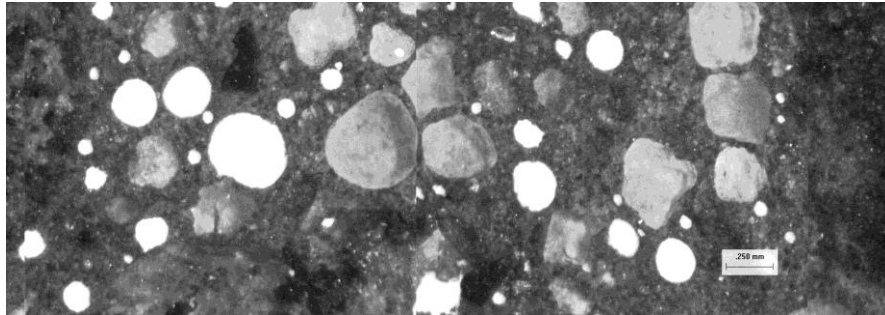


New blended cements are found to provide much greater stability of air void system in concrete



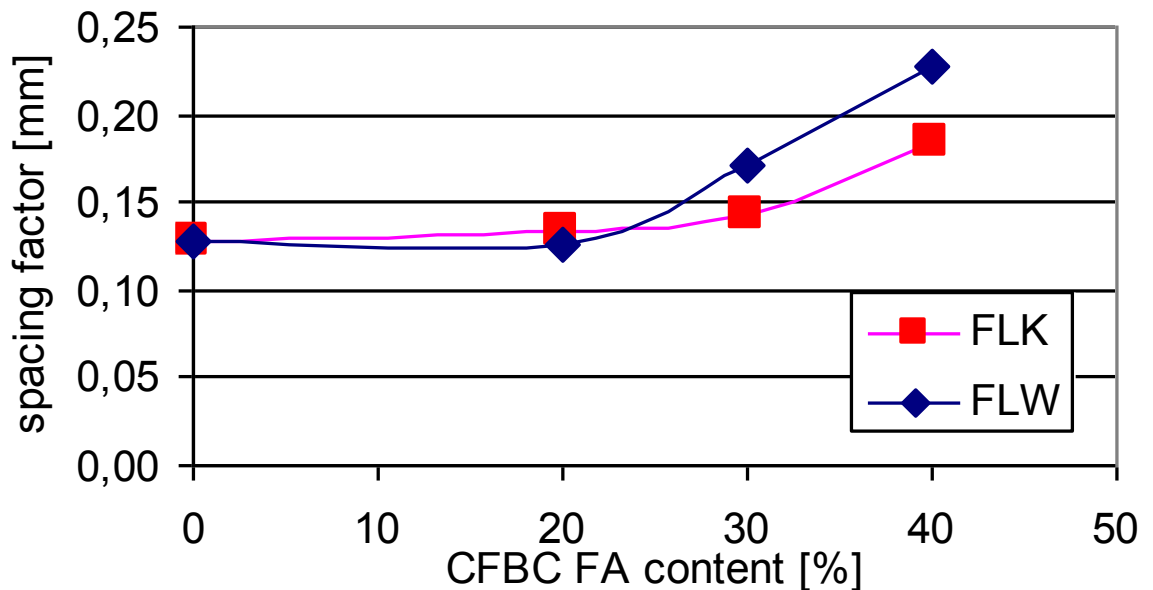
$\alpha=20,9\text{mm}^{-1}$      $\alpha=36,9\text{mm}^{-1}$   
specific surface of air voids

# Quantitative characterization of concrete microstructure -air void system



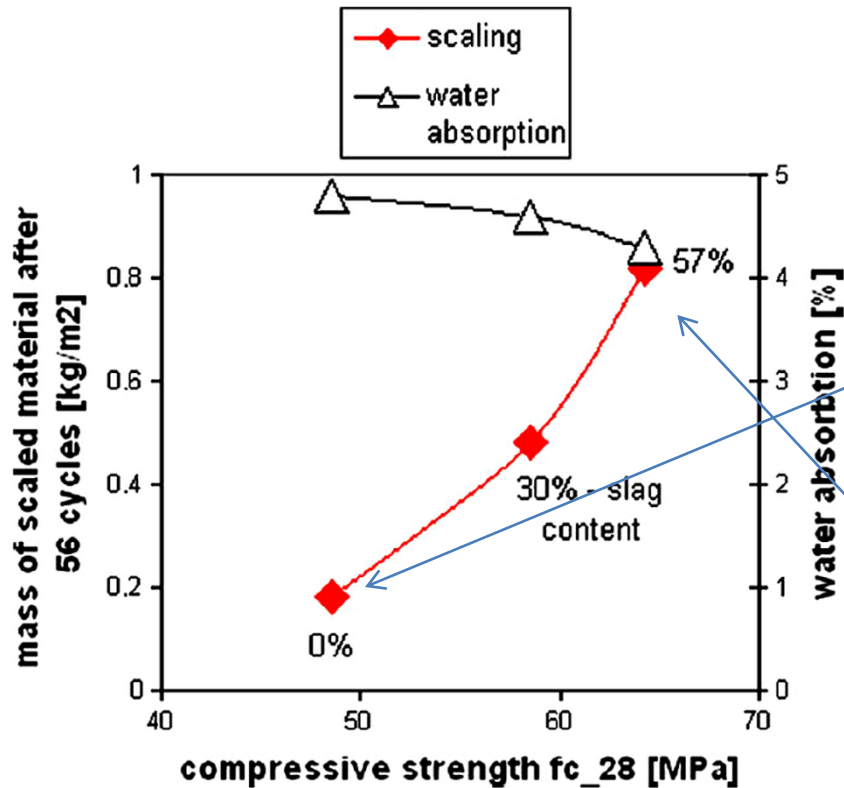
Air voids (white) in a polished section of concrete with CFBC fly ash (optical microscopy with digital image analysis)

Spacing factor of air voids system versus the content of CFBC fly ash

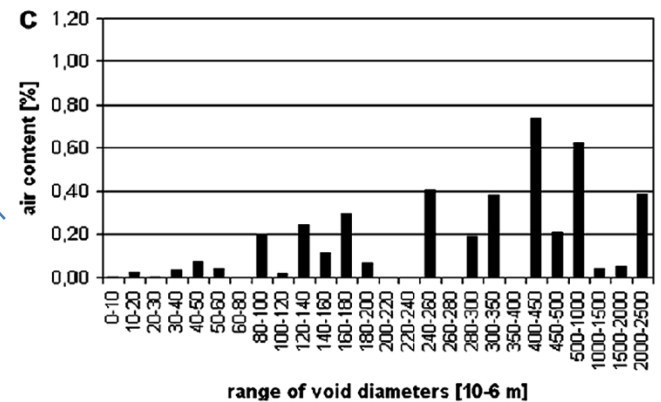
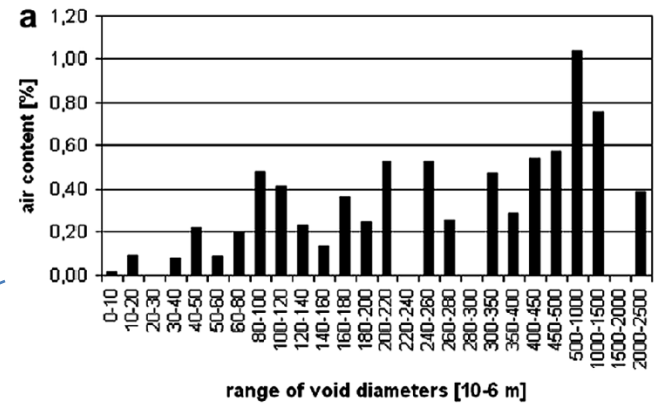


# Air voids and scaling of slag blended cement concrete

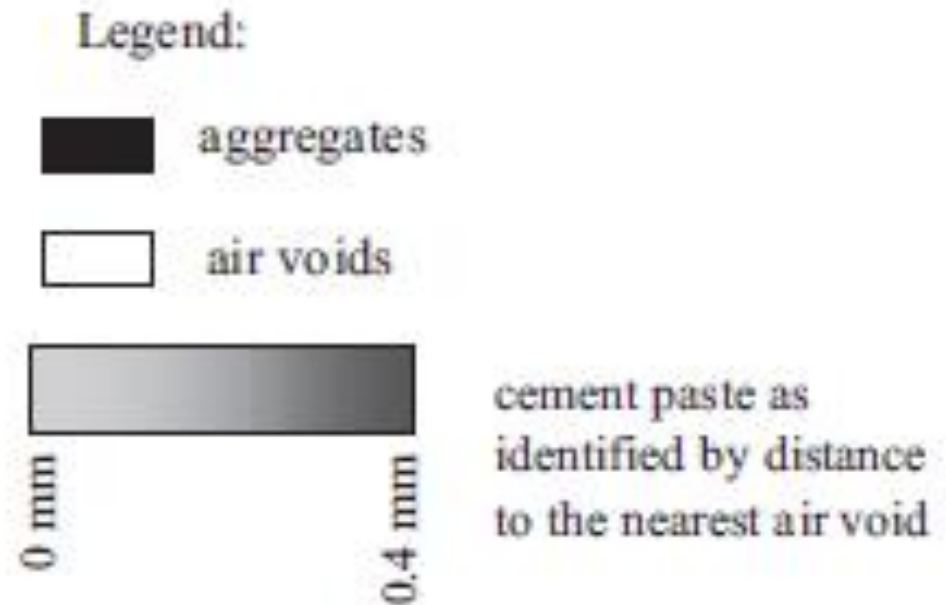
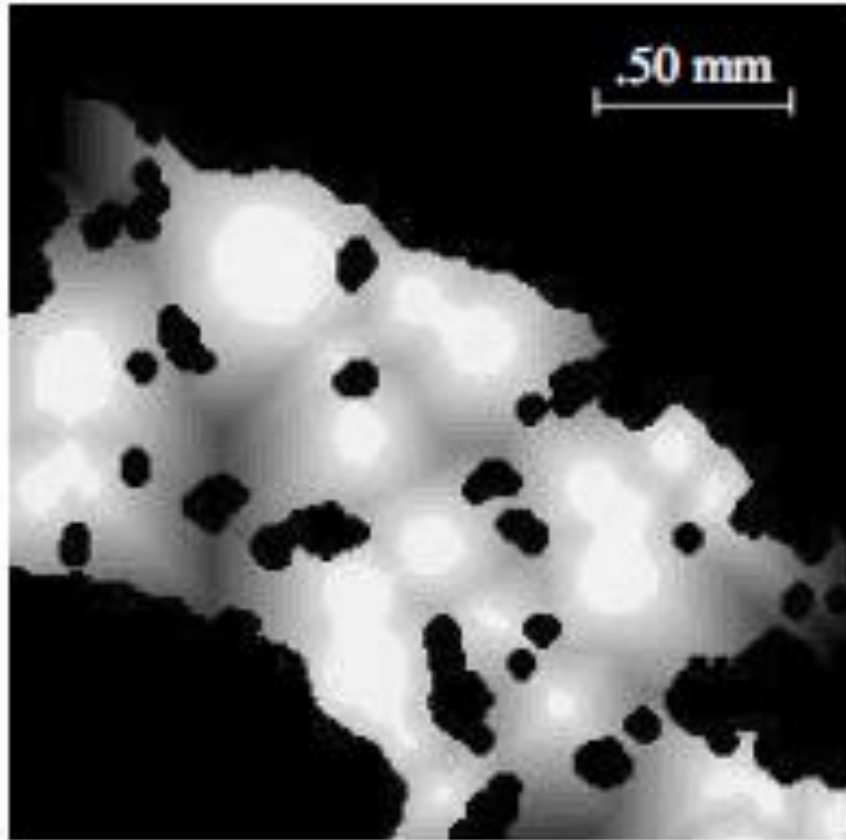
Highly increased frost-salt scaling



Air void size distribution in concrete

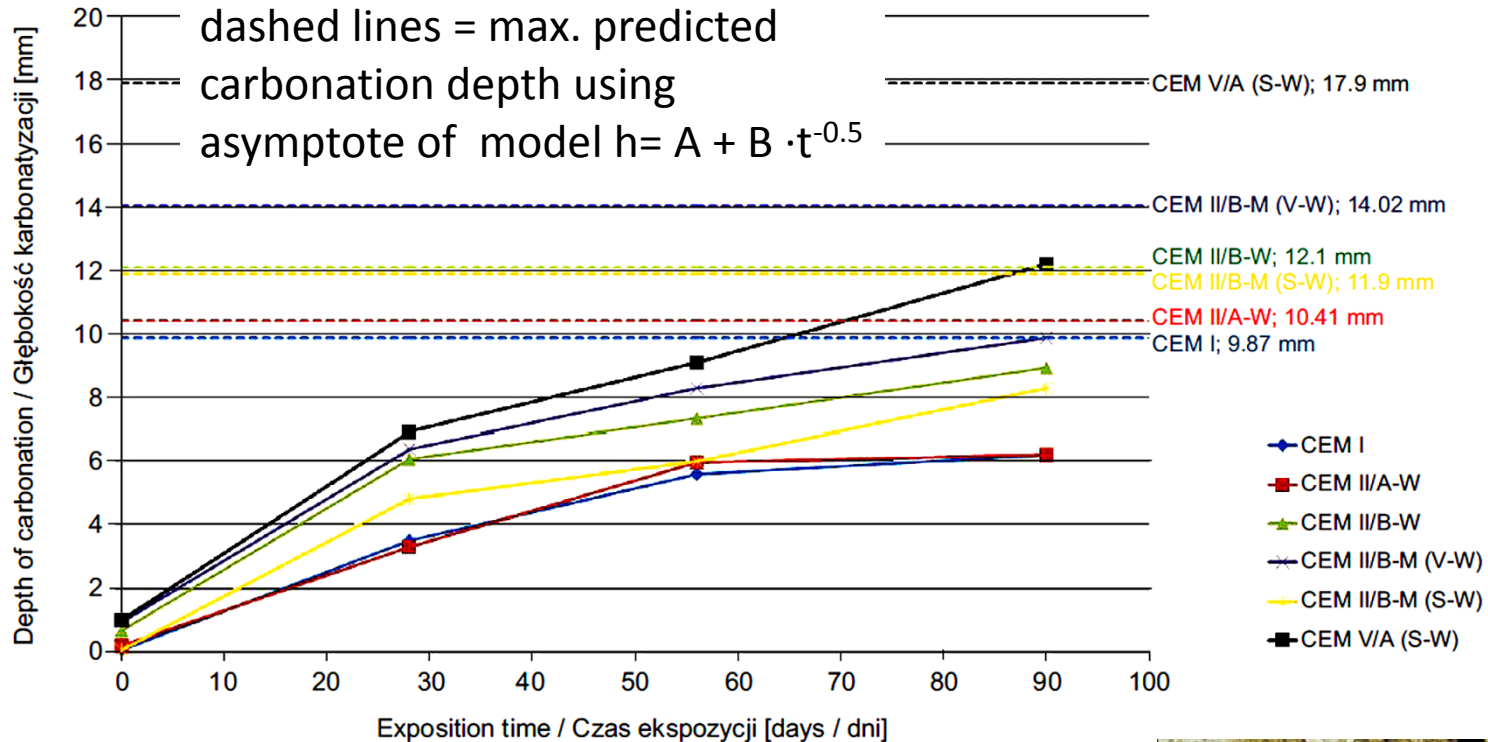


# Inhomogeneities of air void system

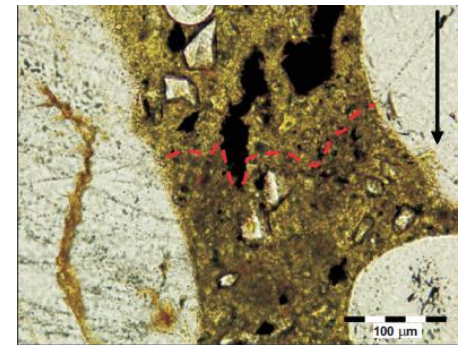


The area fraction of the cement paste within a selected distance from the periphery of air voids can be calculated.

# Quantitative characterization of carbonation process



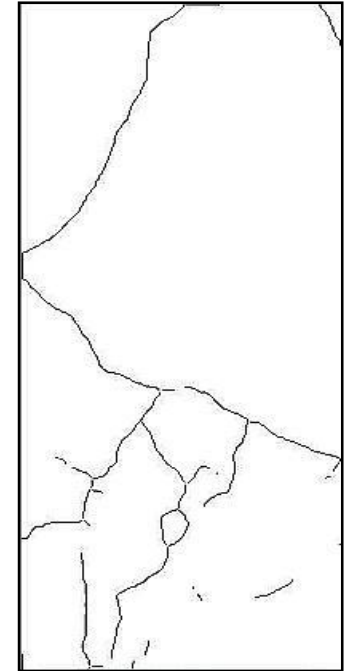
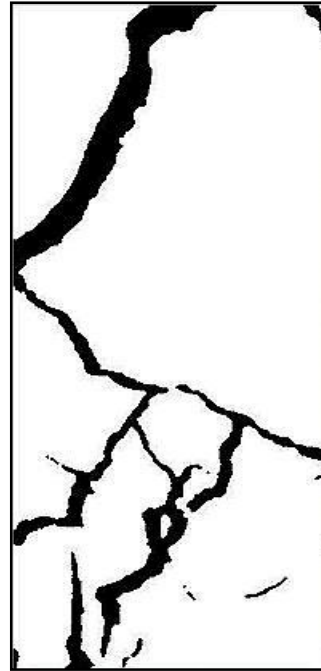
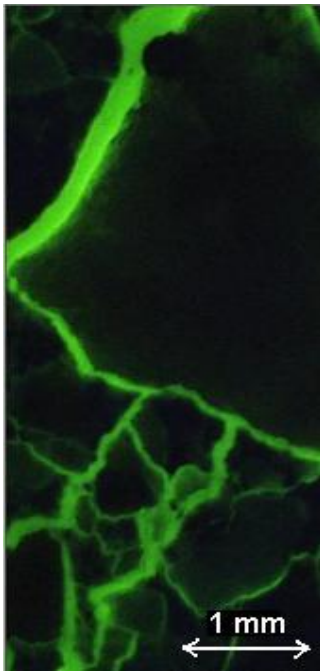
Thin section image in polarized light to analyse the carbonation front



# Processing of image of cracks on impregnated flat sections

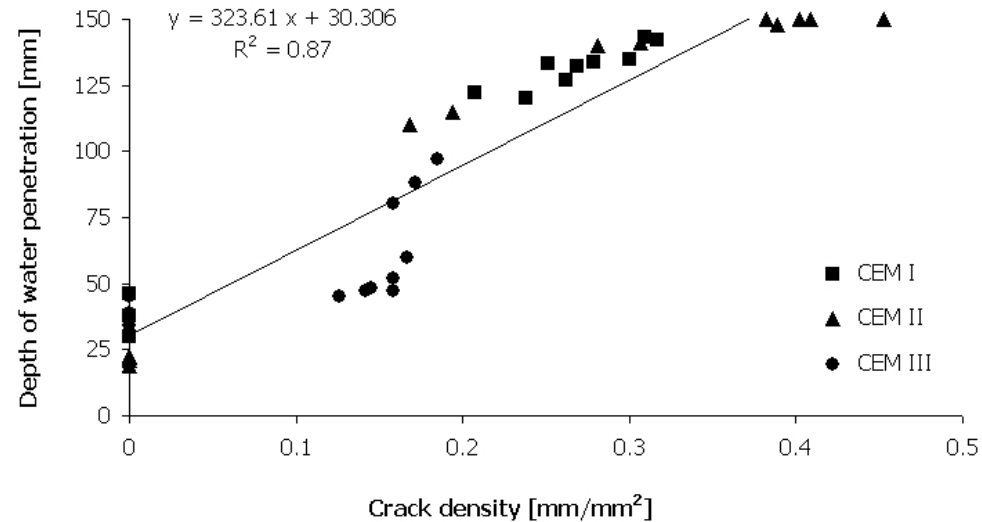
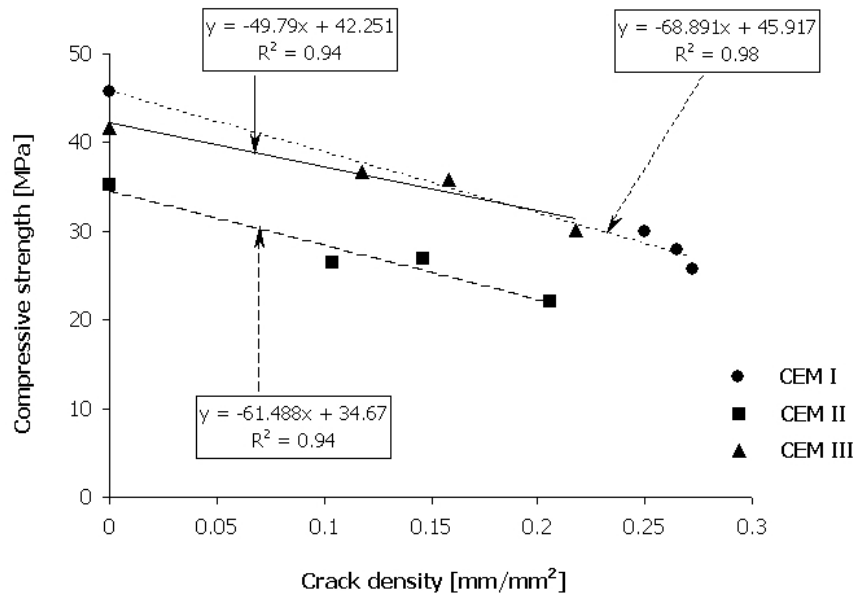
segmentation filtering  
operations shape analysis

skeletonization

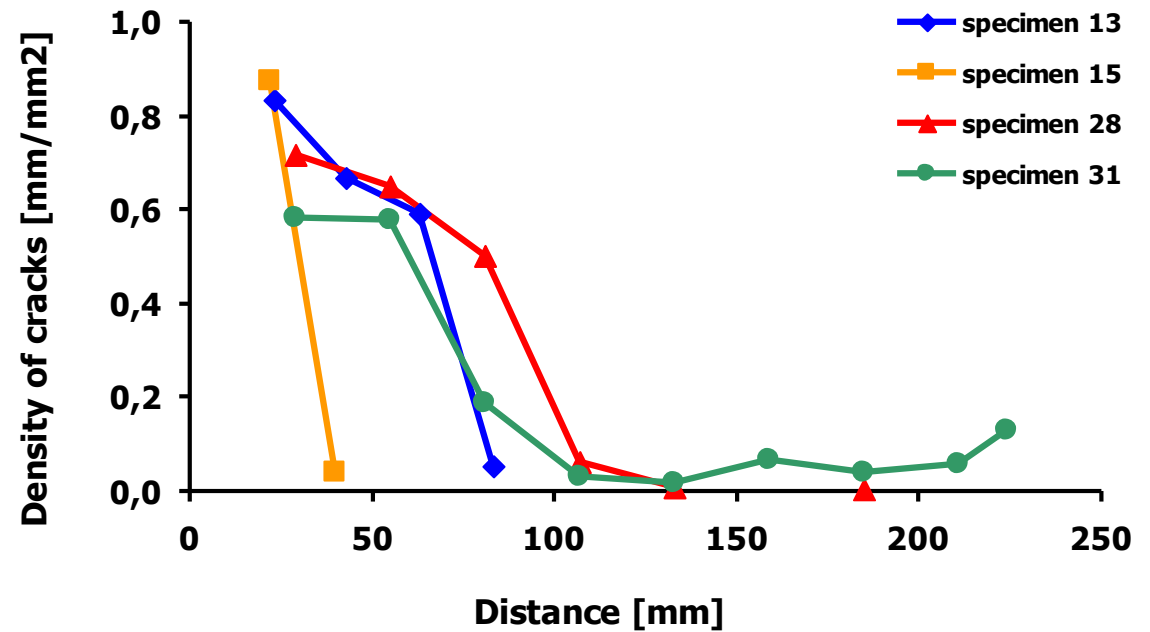
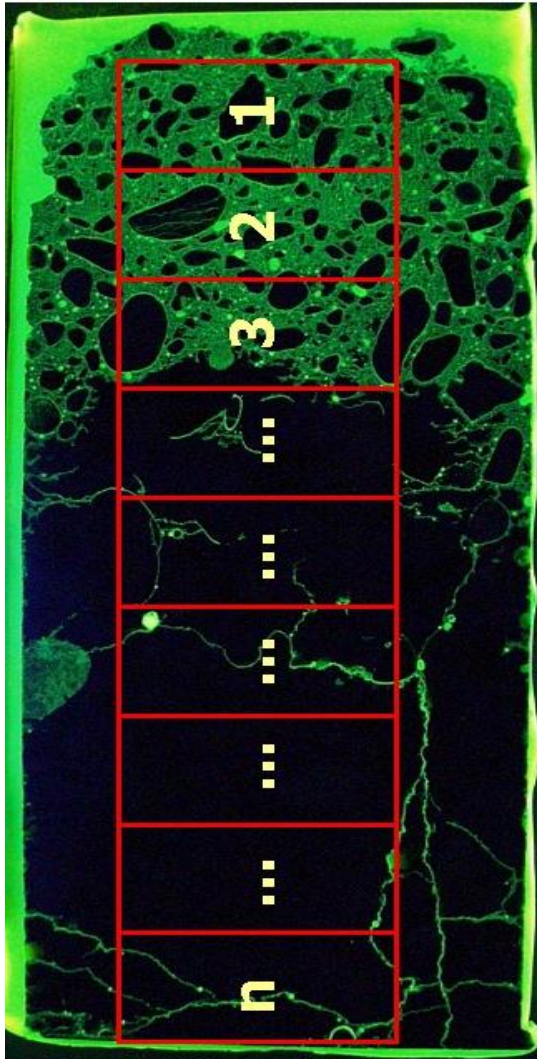


# Quantitative parameters of crack system

- Crack density = total dendritic length of cracks per image area
- Degree of crack orientation—shown by means of “rose of intercepts”
- Distribution of crack width—shown as percentage object fraction in the given range of crack width

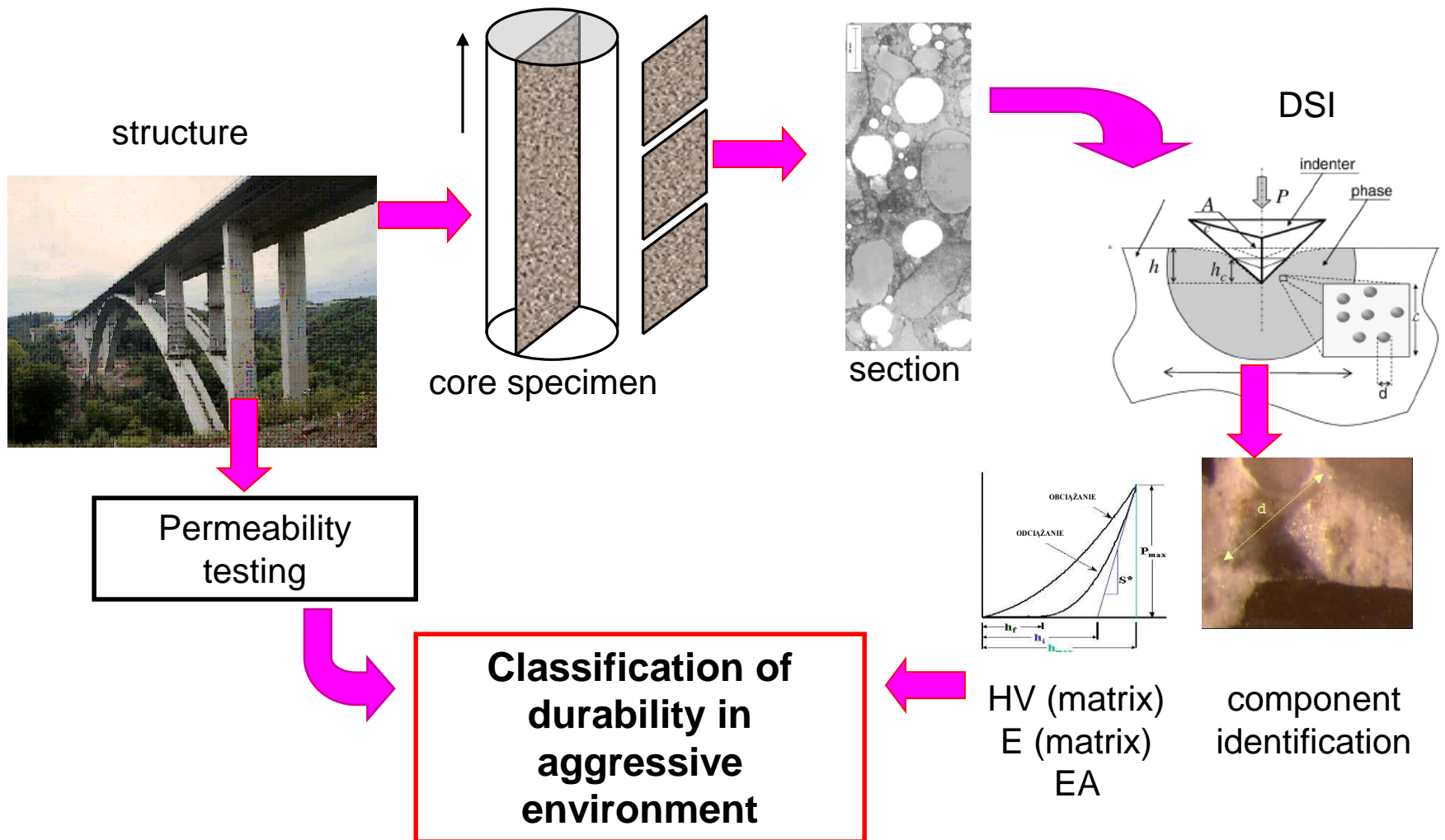


# Crack density in concrete damaged due to early freezing

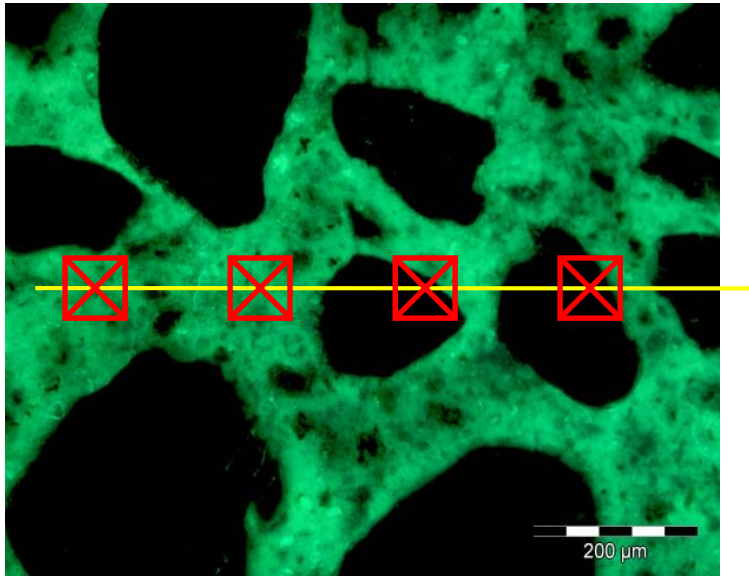




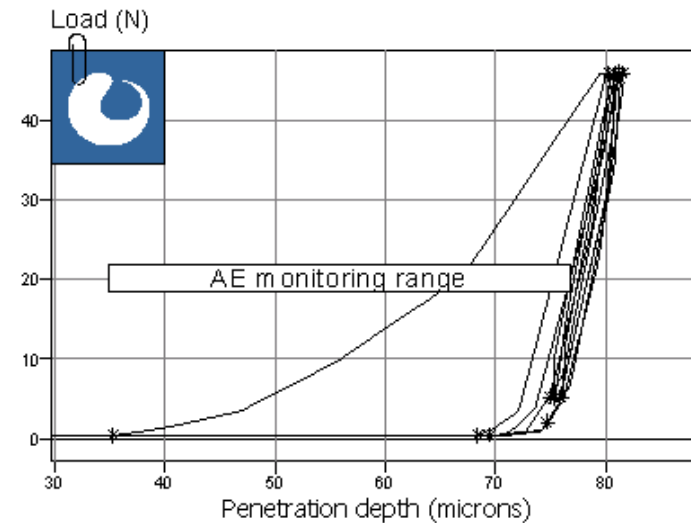
# Almost nondestructive diagnostics of concrete durability



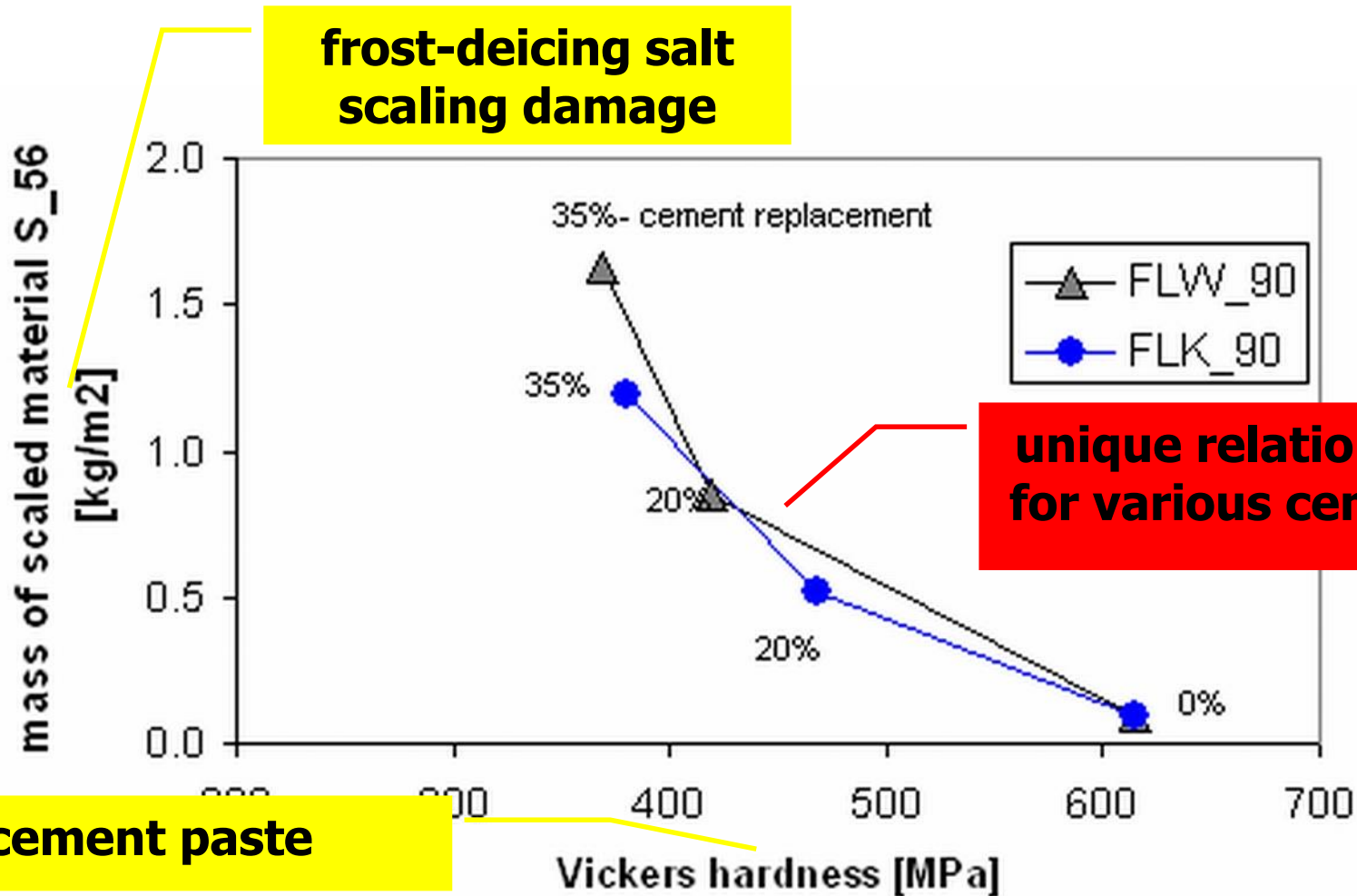
# Local characterization of matrix by microindentation



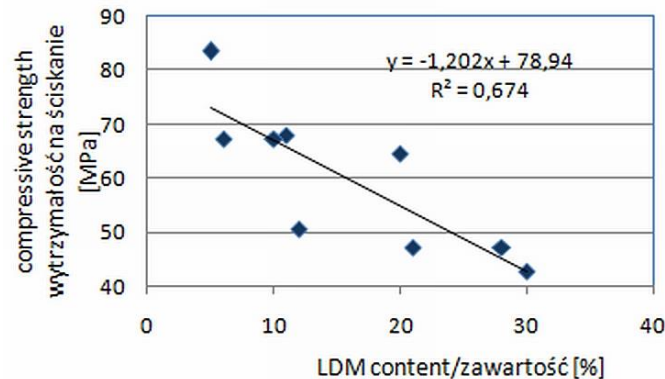
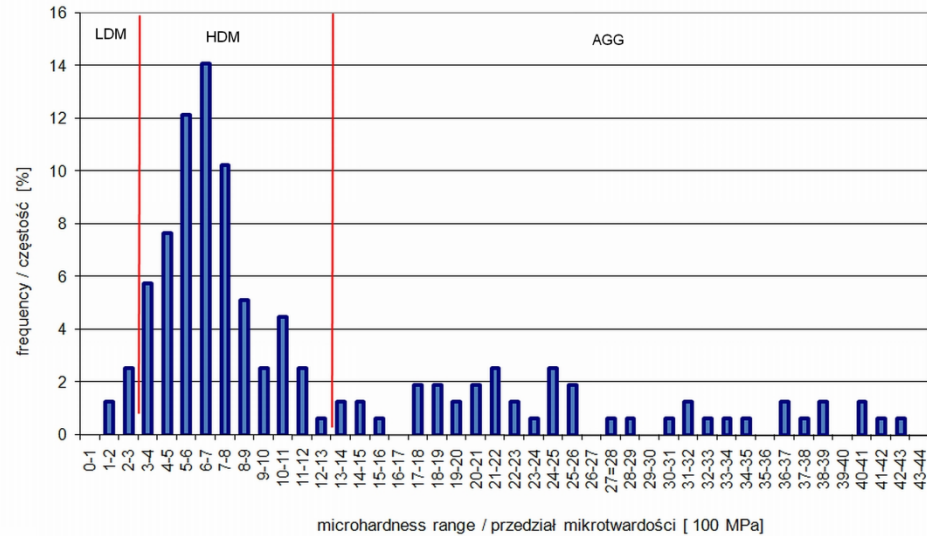
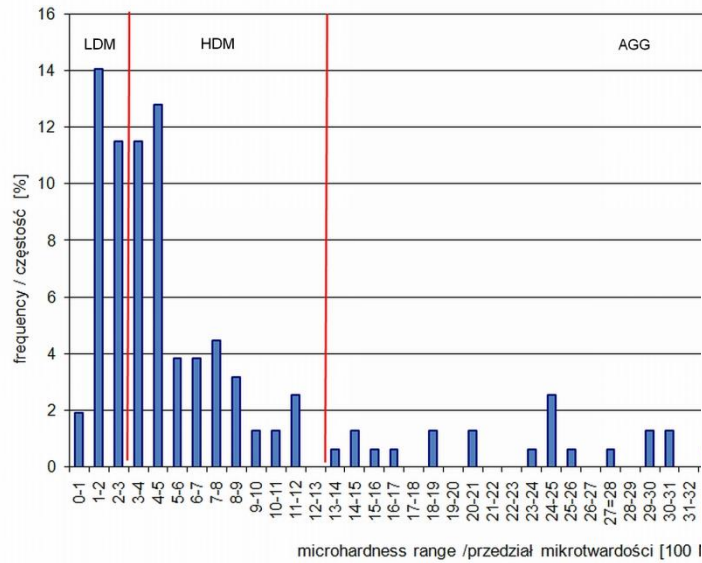
**Continuous measurement of load, penetration depth and acoustic emission**



# Relationship between frost-salt scaling resistance and paste microhardness



# Identification of 'low density' and 'high density' areas using microindentation

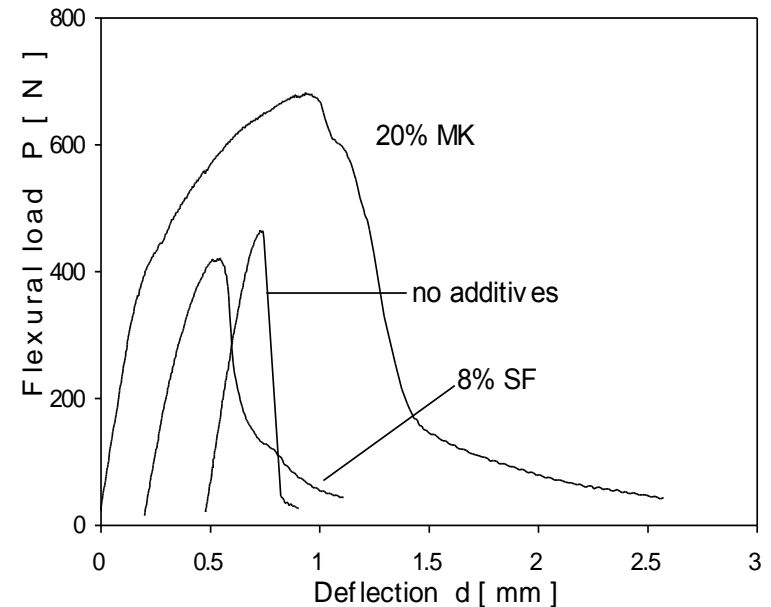
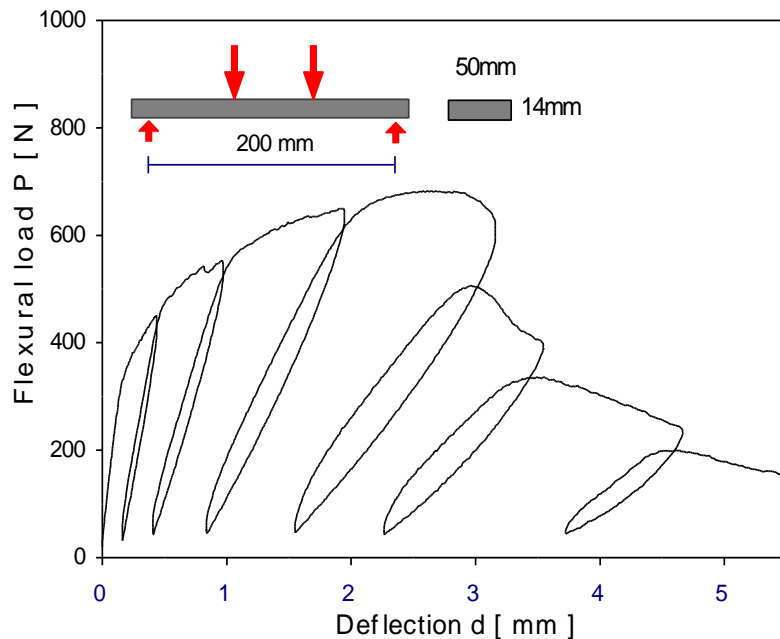


Relationship between the LDM content and the compressive strength of concrete

# Long-term toughness of glass fibre concrete

Improvement of long term toughness of GFRC in highly alkaline environment of cement paste at high humidity and increased temperature

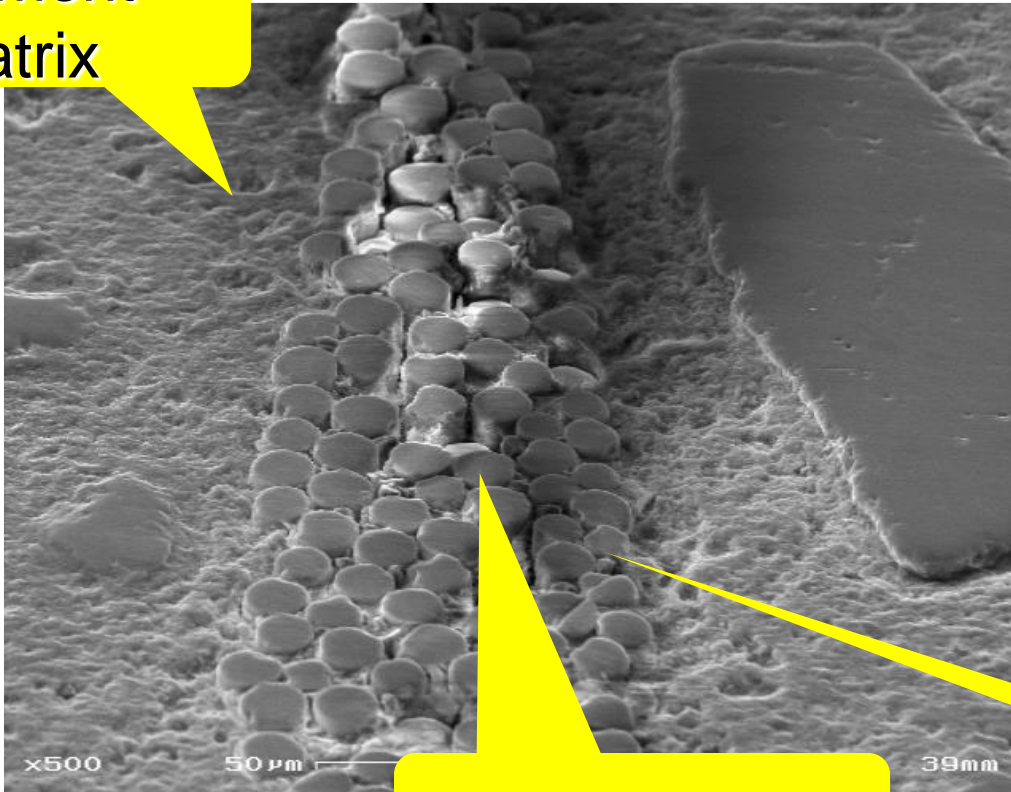
## Flexural performance before and after ageing



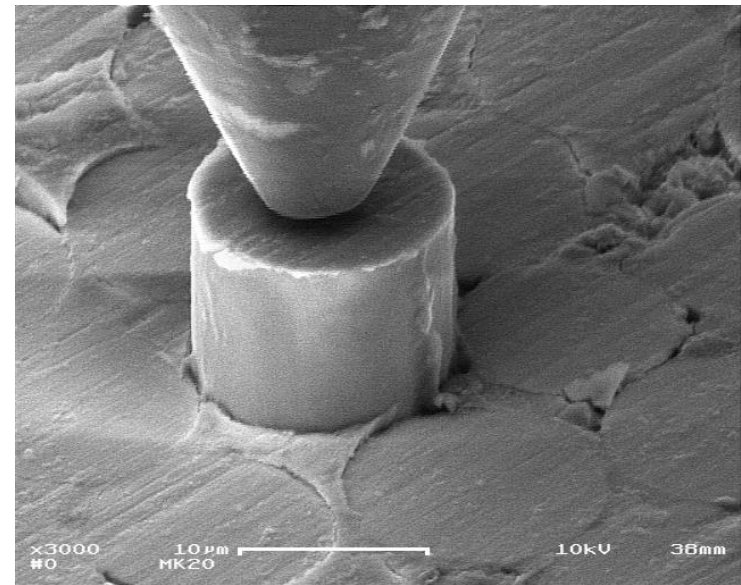
# Push-out and push back tests on single fibres

- 50 to 200 glass filaments in strand

cement  
matrix



inner fibres

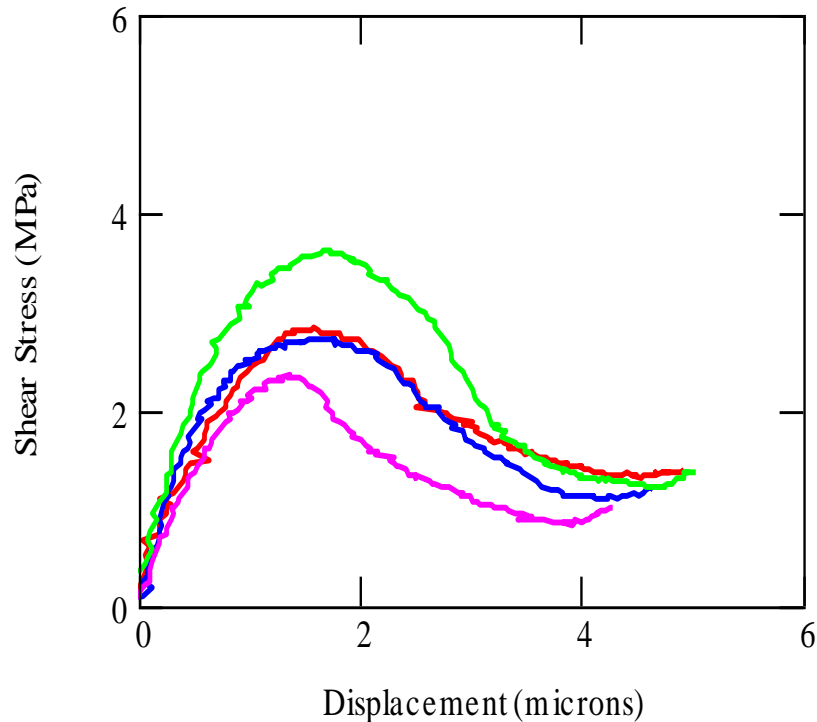


outer fibres

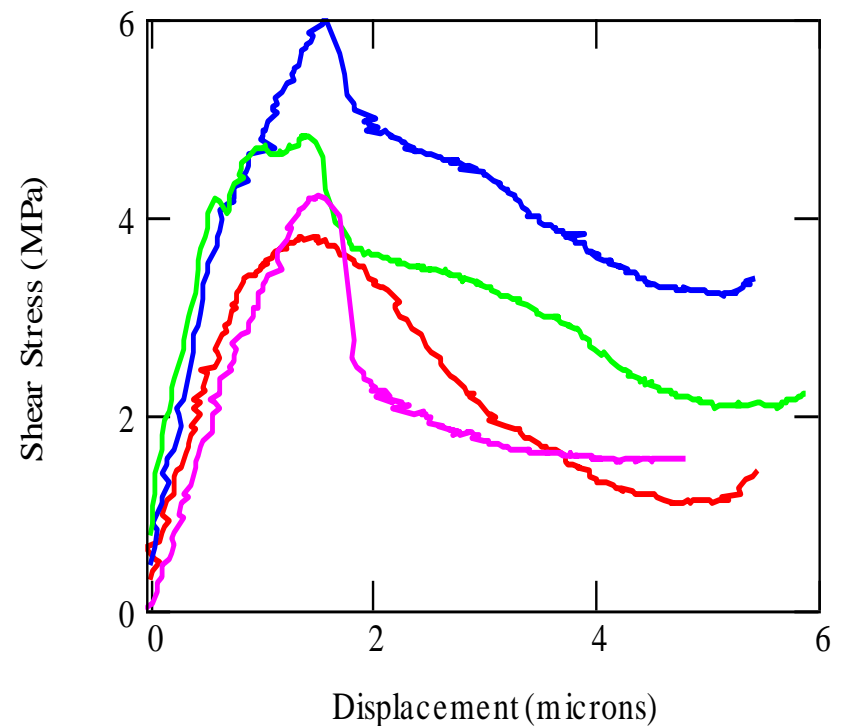
# Fiber-cement interface characterization: push-out results

Matrix: cement 70%+metakaolin 30%  
quartz sand 0.25mm

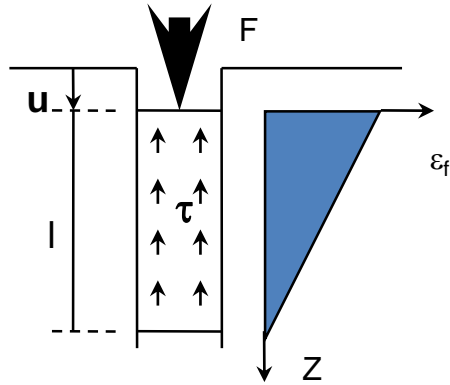
## inner fibres



## outer fibres



# Development of fibre-matrix interface model



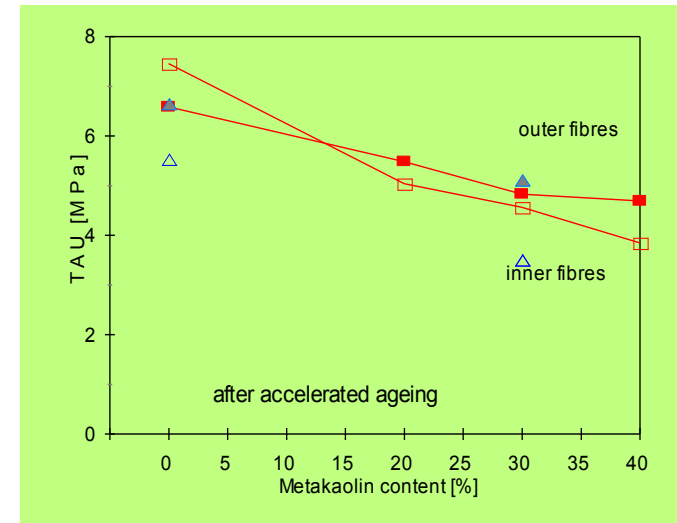
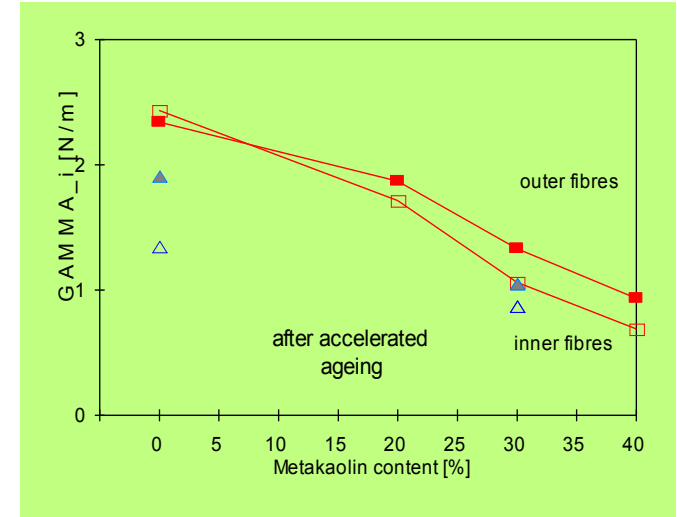
**Debonding energy  $\Gamma_i$**

$$u = \frac{F^2}{4\pi^2 R^3 \tau E_f} - \frac{2\Gamma_i}{\tau}$$

$2\Gamma_i$  - fracture surface energy per unit area of interface

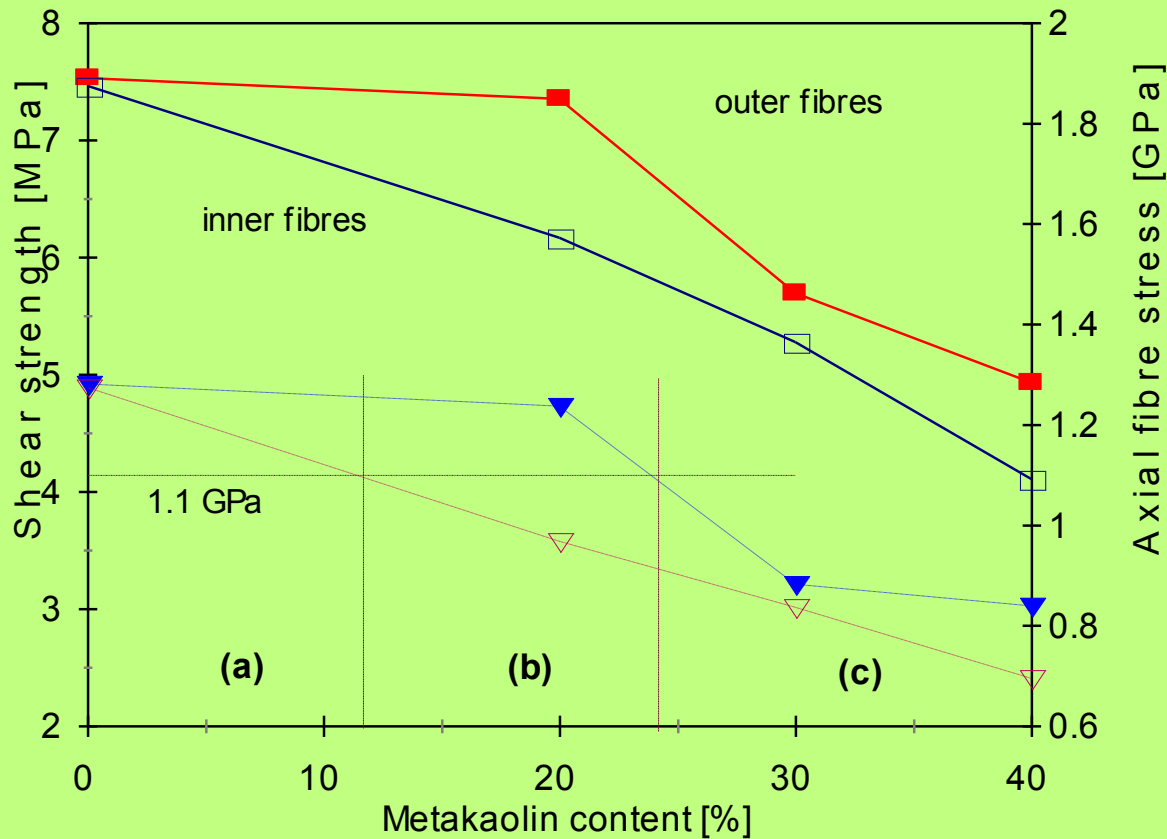
$\tau$  - constant shear stress at the interface

**Friction stress  $\tau$**





# Bond strength of single filaments after ageing → fracture mechanisms



- Fracture mechanisms :
- a) fibre fracture
  - b) telescopic fracture of strand
  - c) fibre pull-out

# Studies of thermal properties of hardening concrete

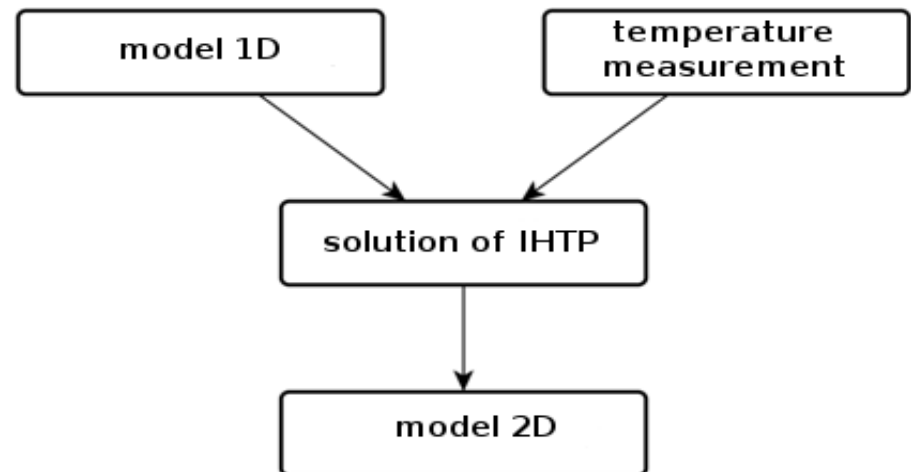
Heat transfer model

$$c\rho \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( k_x \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( k_y \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( k_z \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \right) = Q$$

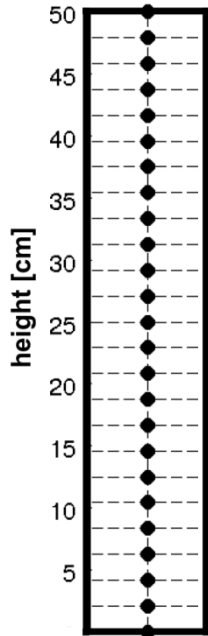
$\rho$  – density,  $c$  – heat capacity,  $T$  – temperature,  $t$  – time,  
 $x, y, z$  – spatial coordinates,  $Q$  – heat source function  
 $k_x, k_y, k_z$  – thermal conductivity in direction  $x, y, z$  respectively

Method based on the solution of **INVERSE HEAT TRANSFER PROBLEM**

→ tool for evaluation of thermal performance of new concrete mixtures containing nonconventional mineral components

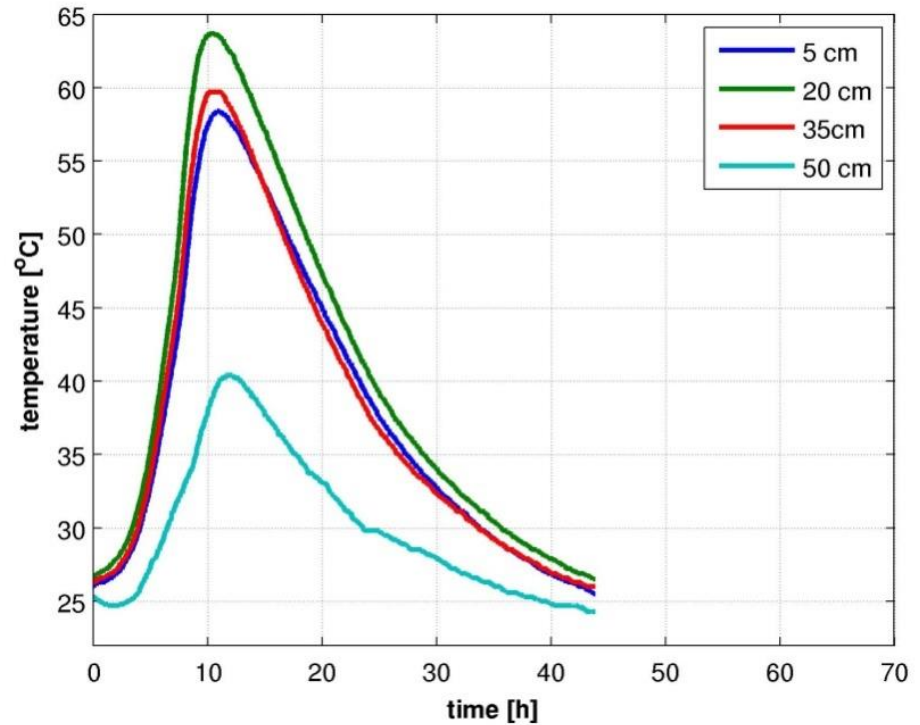


# 1 D heat transfer during hardening

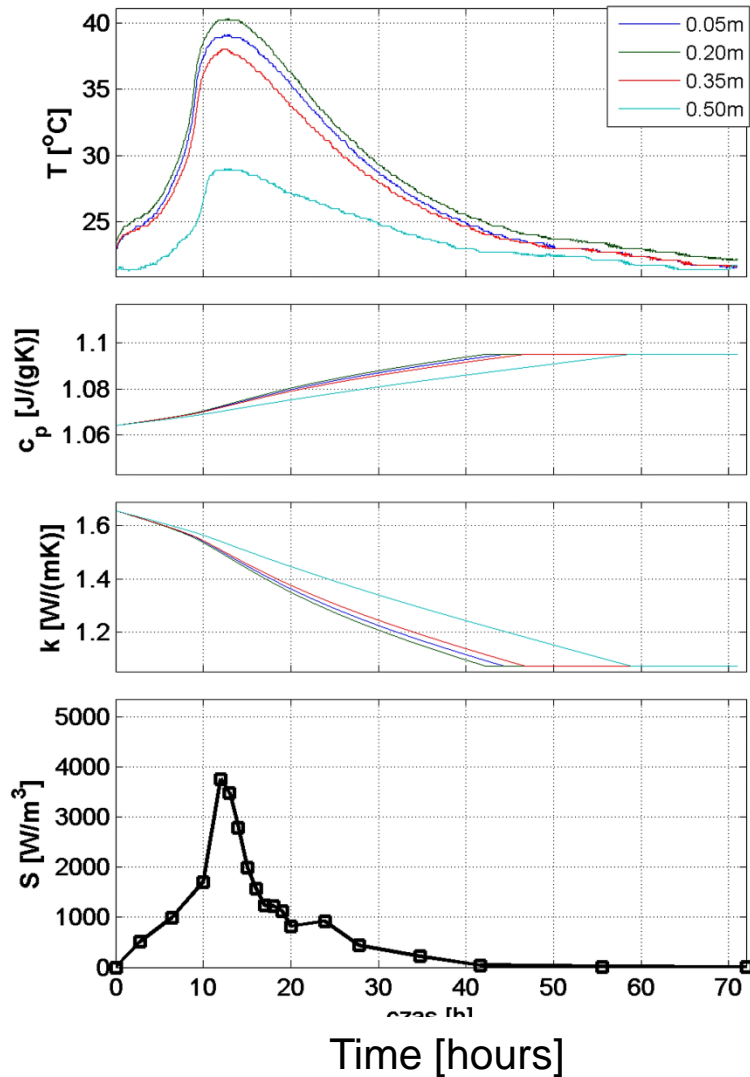


FDM - finite-difference method in spatial domain, Dirichlet boundary conditions

Temperature monitoring during 72 hours



# Results of inverse heat transfer analysis



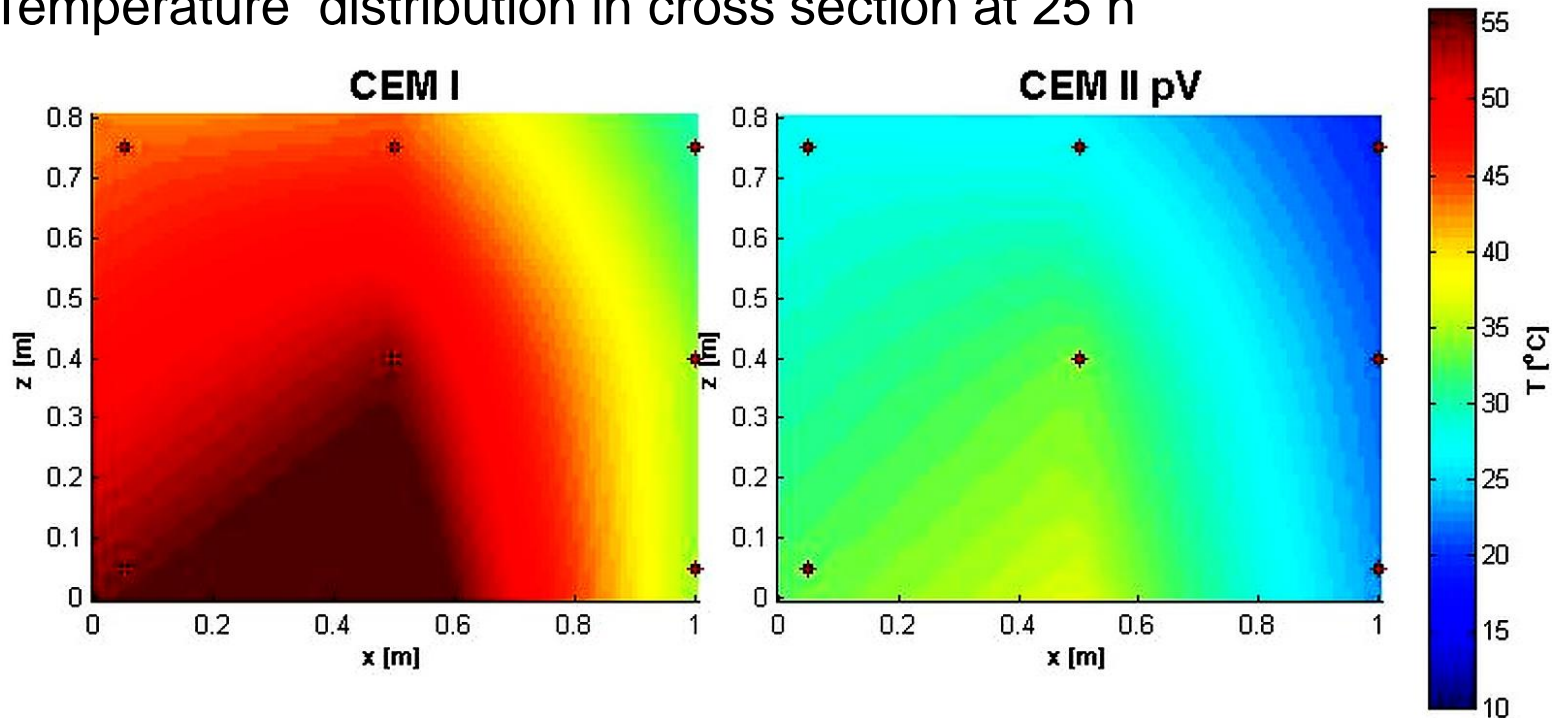
Measured temperature distribution in time in hardening concrete (1D element)

Calculated:

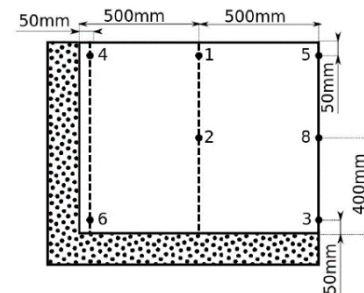
- specific heat,
  - coefficient of thermal conductivity and
  - heat of hardening
- in time for concrete mix containing 30% of nonstandard SCM

# Temperature predictions and actual measurements in large concrete blocks

Temperature distribution in cross section at 25 h



Left: Portland cement  
Right: 30% replacement by  
HCFA



Block size and  
temperature  
sensor location

# Application of soft computing methods to aid in prediction of concrete durability

## Objective

to develop rules for automatic categorization of concrete quality using machine learning techniques,  
in particular:

- the rules for categorization of resistance of concrete to chloride migration and resistance to frost-salt aggression
- prediction of mechanical properties of recycled aggregate concrete

## Range of materials

concrete mixes containing new highly active mineral additives replacing Portland cement and developed new blended cements;  
recycled aggregate concrete

# Database used for machine learning application

C1	pfT	pfK	W	A_fr	fc28	Resistance
360	0	0	162	2.1	55.0	Acceptable
306	0	54	162	1.8	56.2	Acceptable
252	0	108	162	1.3	51.6	Good
306	54	0	162	1.6	60.3	Good
252	108	0	162	1.6	58.7	Good
380	0	0	171	6.2	46.3	Acceptable
323	0	57	171	6.8	47.2	Good
266	0	114	171	5.8	46.8	Good
323	57	0	171	6.6	45.3	Acceptable
266	114	0	171	6.2	46.3	Acceptable
406	0					
290	73					
217	14					
323	0					
244	0					

The database structure:  
6 numerical attributes,  
1 nominal attribute

C1 – content of cement, [kg/m<sup>3</sup>],

pfT, pfK – content of CFBC fly ash from brown and hard coal combustion, [kg/m<sup>3</sup>],

W – content of water, [kg/m<sup>3</sup>],

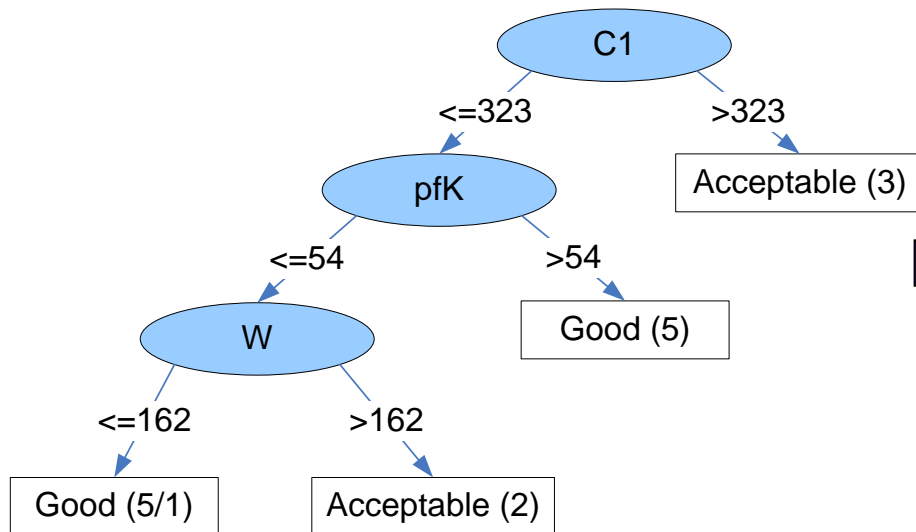
A\_fr – air content in fresh mix, [%],

fc28 – compressive strength of concrete tested after 28 days, [MPa],

resistance – the resistance of concrete to chloride penetration (Acceptable, Good).

# The rules based on J48\* results

The decision tree generated by an J48 algorithm:



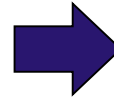
Corresponding rules

[Resistance = Good]  
Rule 1  
[C1 ≤ 323] and [pfK ≤ 54] and [W ≤ 162]

Rule 2  
[C1 ≤ 323] and [pfK > 54]

[Resistance = Acceptable]  
Rule 1  
[C1 ≤ 323] and [pfK ≤ 54] and [W > 162]

Rule 2  
[C1 > 323]



\* - algorithm J48 – the version of an algorithm C4.5 (invented by J. Quinlan); used as a part of WEKA Workbench



Minimization of risk of cracking & leakage

At early ages:

- Due to thermal deformation
- Due to cold-joints, poor compaction

At service life:

- Due to thermal cycling
- ASR induced cracking
- Radiation induced cracking

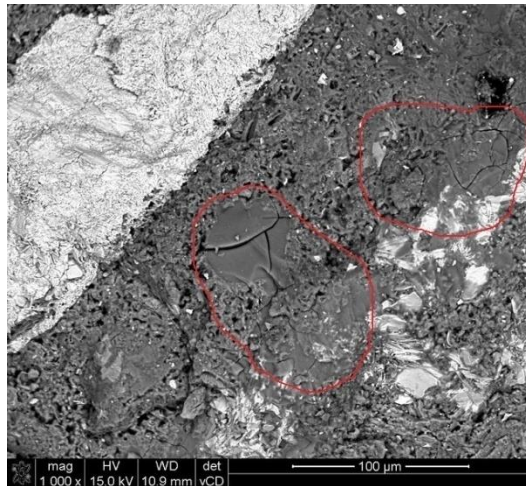


An international panel of experts debated this question during the 123 Forum session at the Fall 2016 Concrete Convention and Exposition in Philadelphia, PA, on October 24, 2016. Eric Giannini and Tengfei Fu organized and moderated the session. The panelists included Kim Kurtis from the Georgia Institute of Technology, Yunping Xi from the University of Colorado, Michał Glinicki from the Polish Academy of Sciences, and John Provis from the University of Sheffield.

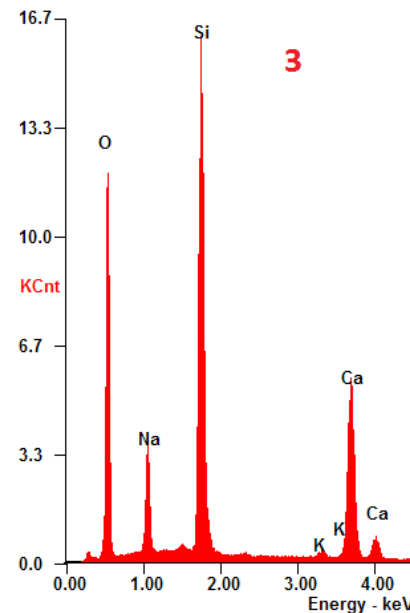
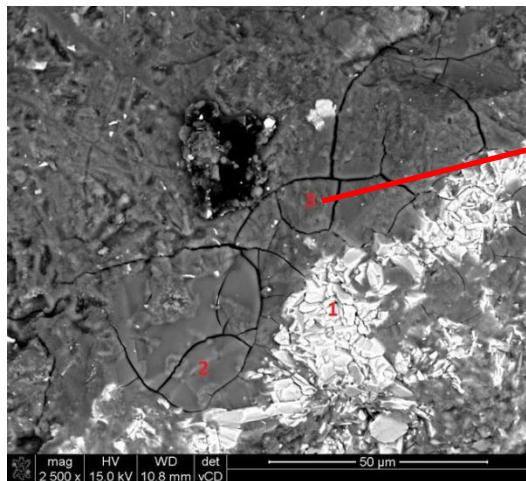
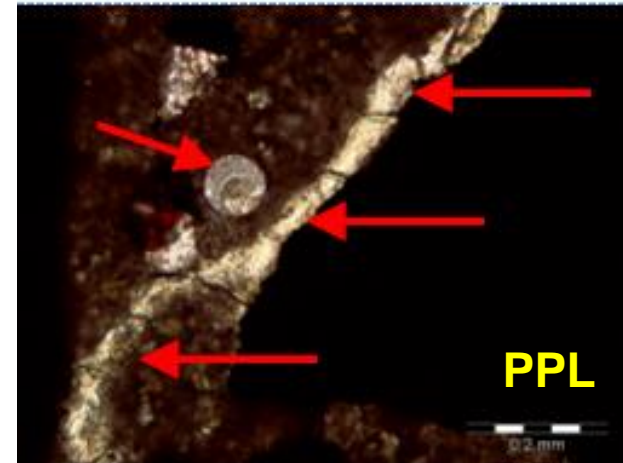


# ASR prevention by selection of minerals

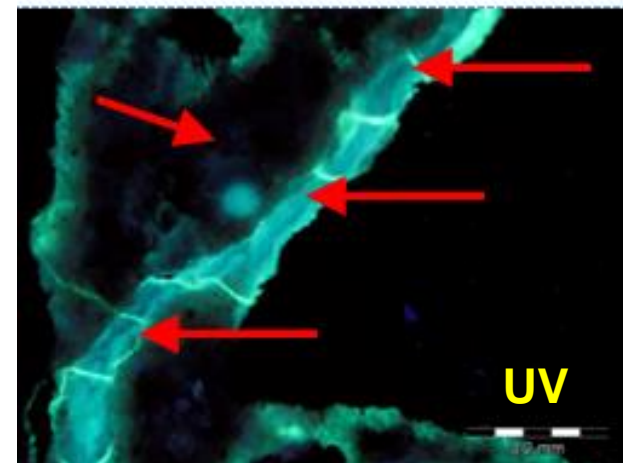
After accelerated expansion test- ASTM C1260



Hematite aggregate



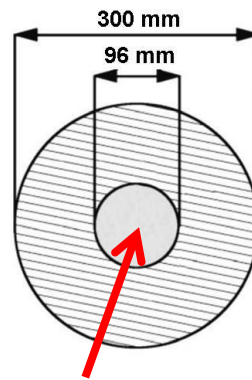
ASR gel



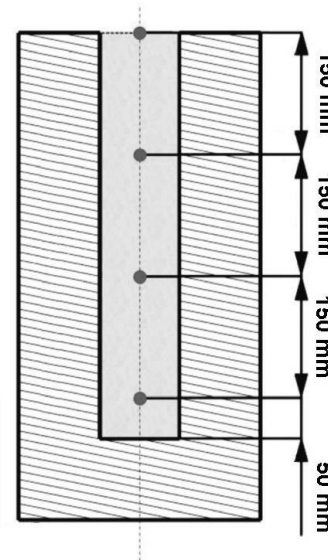
# Early age thermal cracking prevention

More detailed characterization of thermal properties of hardening concrete by experimental-numerical approach

## 1. Unidirectional heat transfer test during 72 hours of hardening

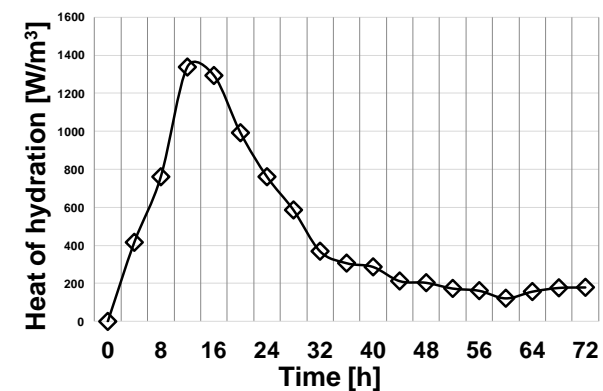
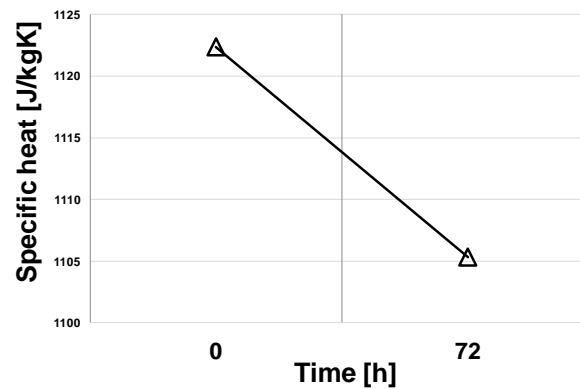
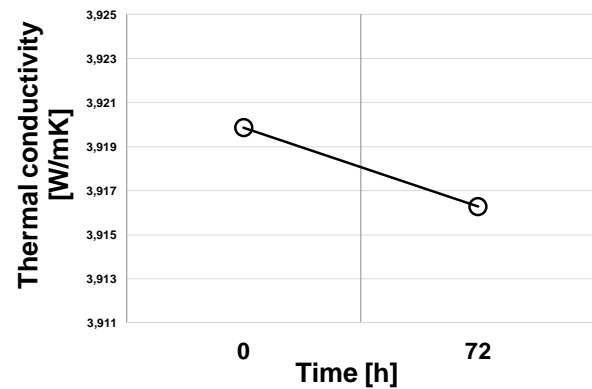
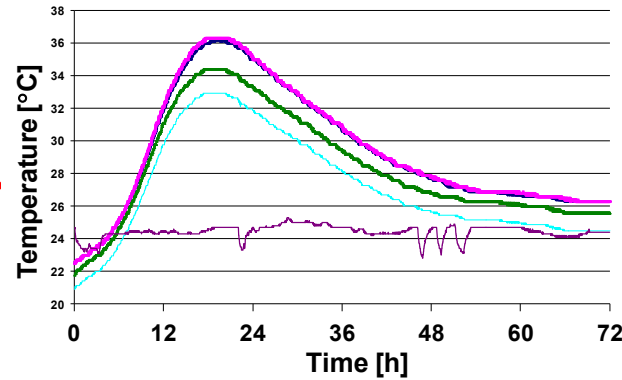


concrete



# Early age thermal cracking prevention

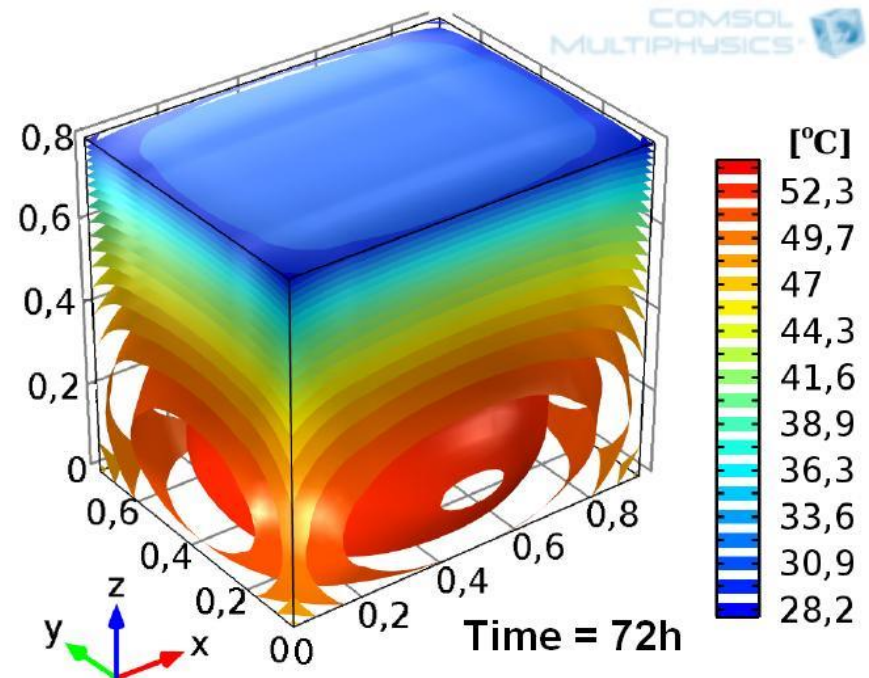
## 2. Numerical solution of inverse problem of heat transfer



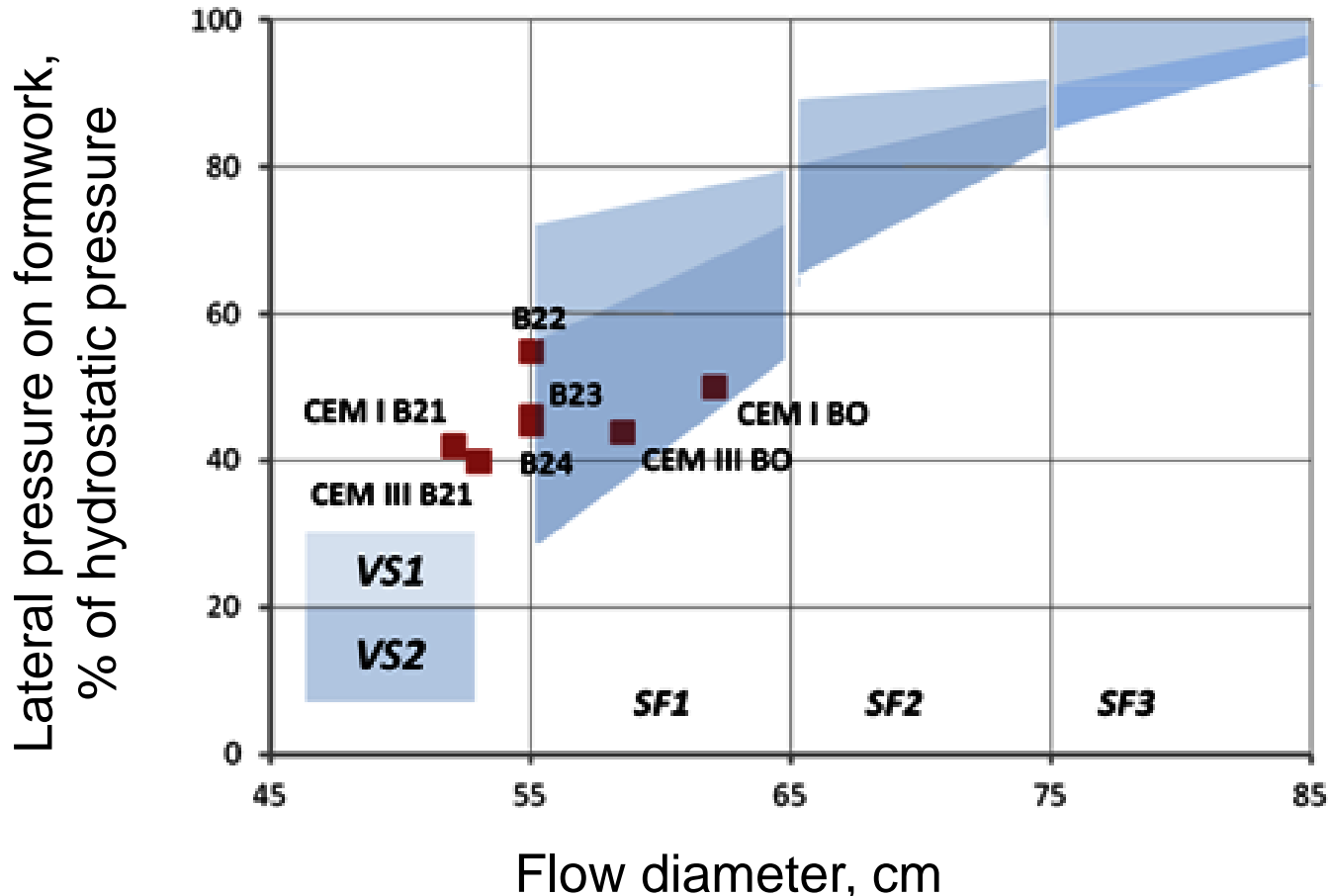
# Early age thermal cracking prevention

## 3. Validation: large scale test and numerical simulation of heat flow in 3D

Selection of cements: CEM I, CEM II B-S, CEM III/A as per European standard EN 197-1 with special properties LH, NA

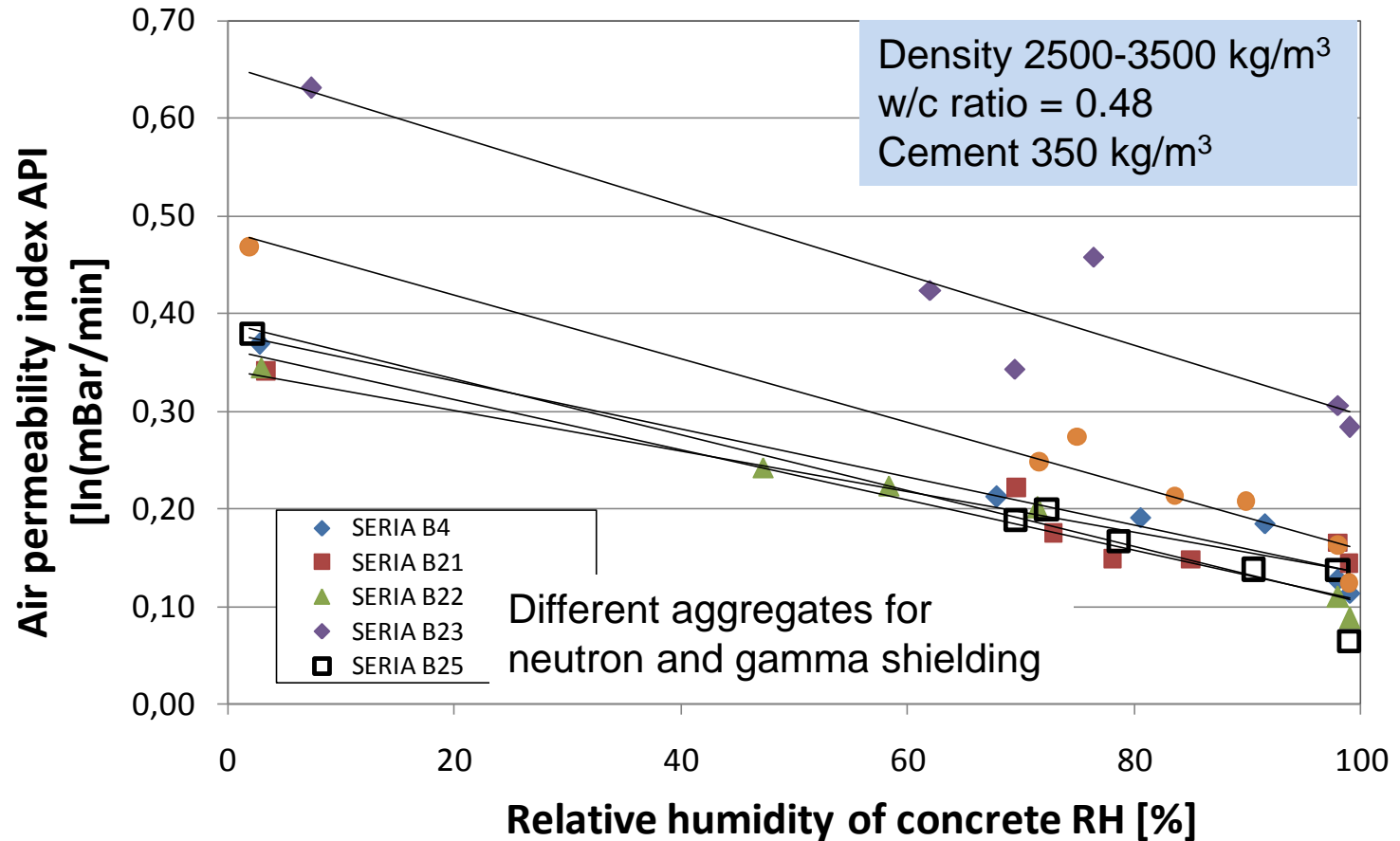


# Self-compacting heavyweight concrete and the formwork pressure



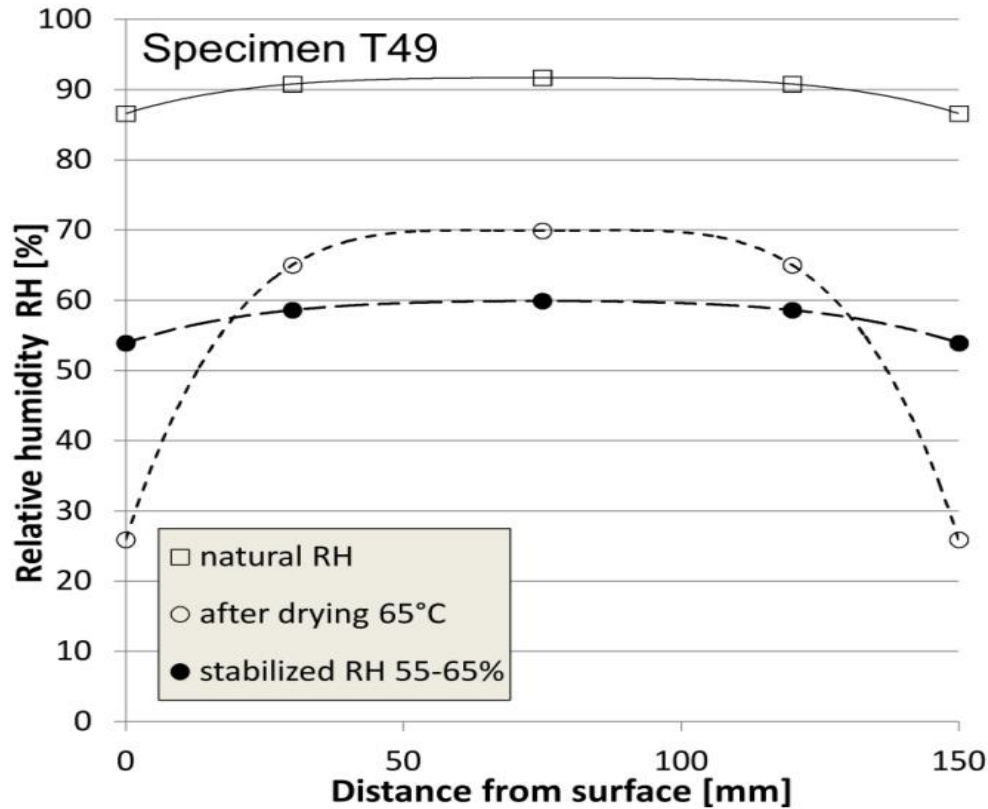
Density 2800-3500 kg/m<sup>3</sup>  
Aggregate: magnetite, serpentinite  
Cement: CEM I, CEM III/A

# Reduced air permeability for wet concrete





# RH distribution in concrete



$$D_h = D_1 \left[ \alpha + \frac{1 - \alpha}{1 + \left[ \frac{(1 - RH)}{(1 - RH_c)} \right]^n} \right]$$

# Effect of boron compounds in cement setting and hardening

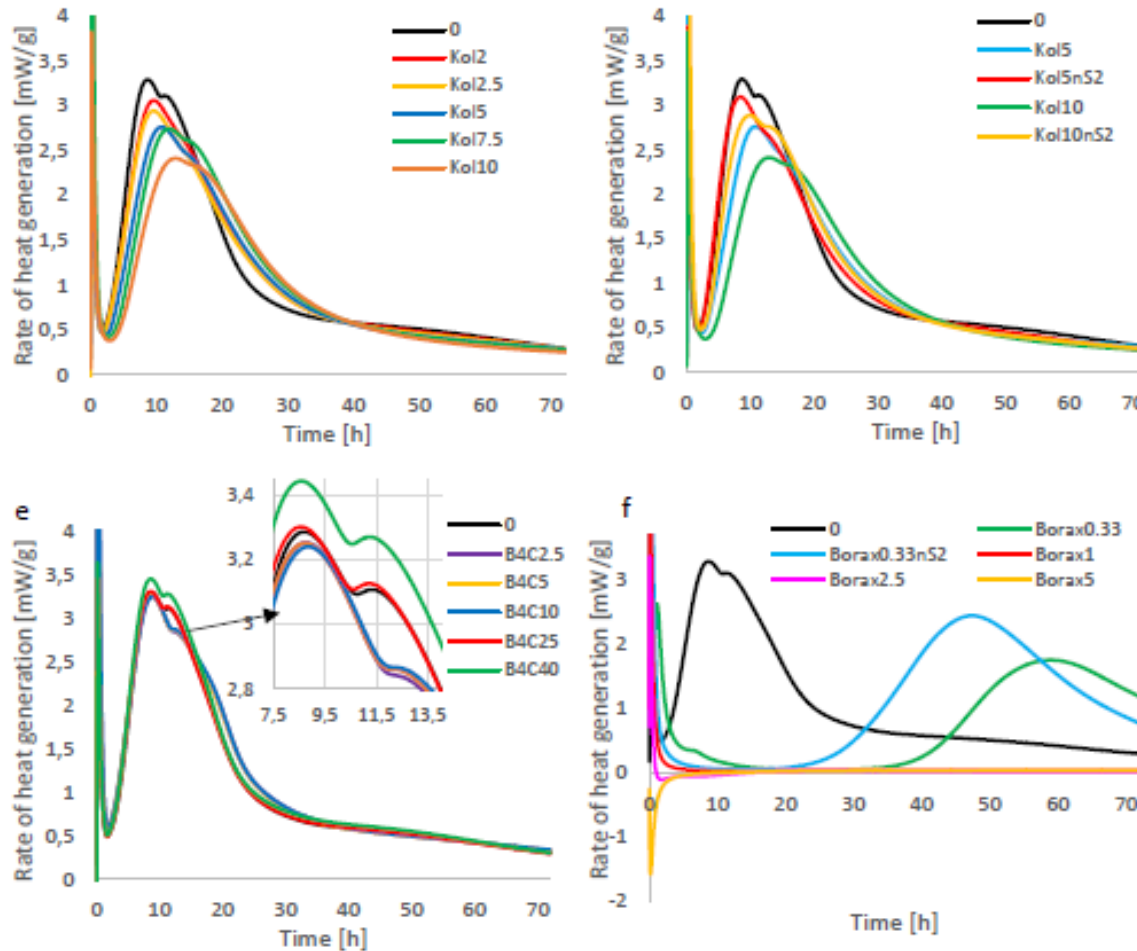


Fig. 1. The rate of heat generated per 1 g of cement during hydration of cement in mortar with different contents of (a) ulexite, (b) ulexite and nanosilica, (c) colemanite (d) colemanite and nanosilica, (e) boron carbide, (f) borax and nanosilica. Assumed notations: 0 - mortar without

# Effect of boron compounds in cement setting and hardening

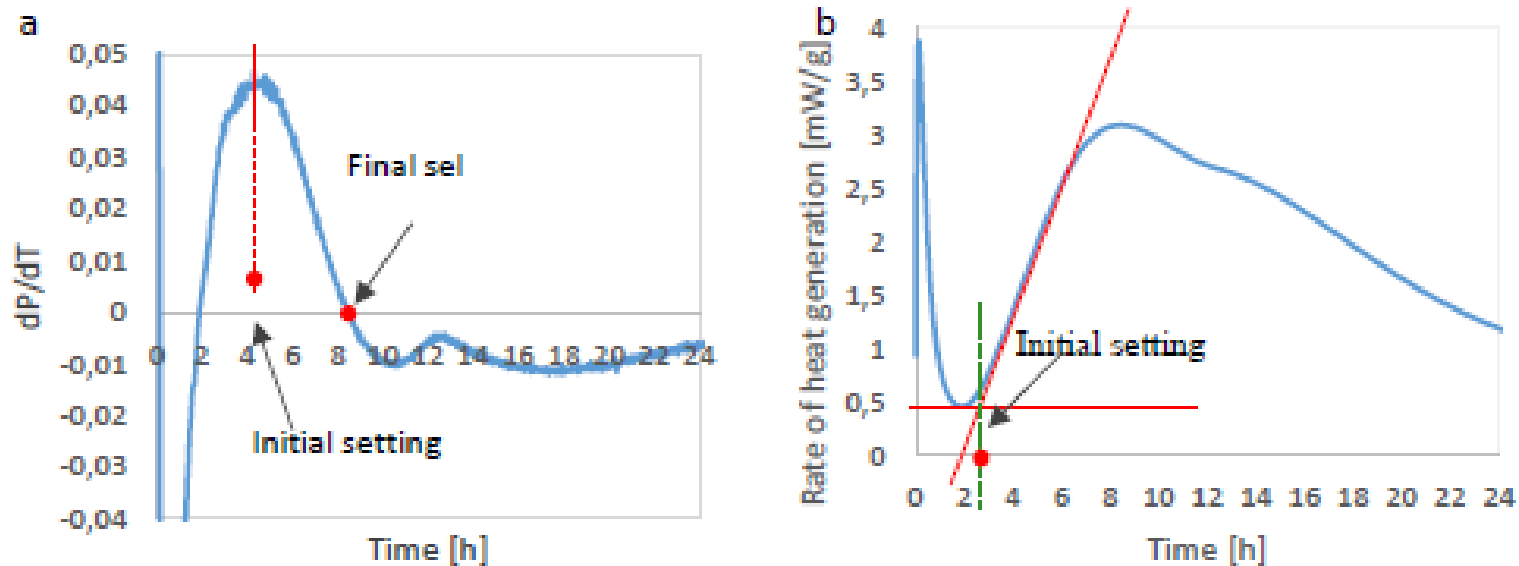


Fig. 4. Two concepts of the initial setting time determination: (a) the first derivative of the function of the rate of heat generation in time [20] (b) the point of intersection of tangent to the minimum and tangent to the point of inflection [21]

## **Ideas being consider:**

1. Hardening concrete after the final cement set: gamma radiation can enhance the microstructure development (further dissolution, localized heating → rate increase, ...)

2. Hardened concrete:

- Moisture transport induced by radiation
- Dehydration of CSH

3. Concrete components

- Radiation induced transformation of minerals

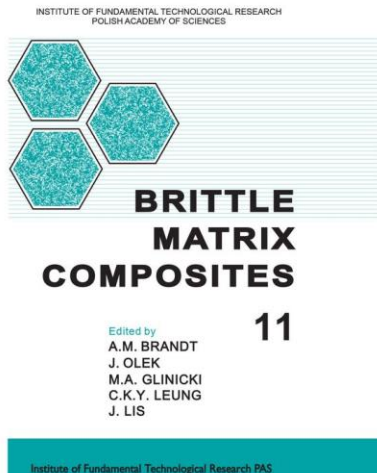
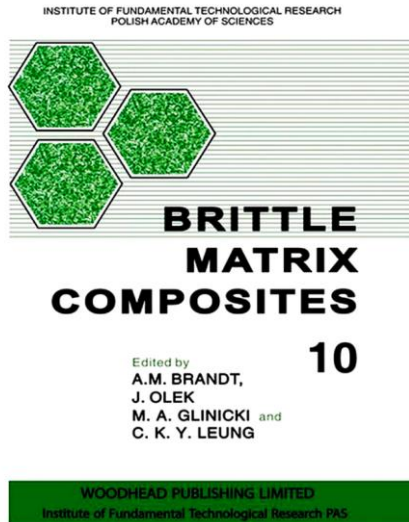
dolomitic-limestone 1:1 with clay minerals; porosity

Ion implantation technique

Neutron induced transformation

4. Gamma/heat effects on the permeability of concrete

# Long series of BMC conferences



## BMC-12

12<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on  
**BRITTLE MATRIX COMPOSITES**

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***Thank you for your attention!***

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